

# FarmLens Ltd

Website: [farmlens.africa](http://farmlens.africa) | App: [app.farmlens.africa](http://app.farmlens.africa) | Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya



Crop details

## Finger millet

*Eleusine coracana*

Family: Poaceae

Categories

Cereals & Pseudocereals

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### Quick stats

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| <b>Family</b>             | Poaceae  |
| <b>Typical harvest</b>    | 2.0 t/ha |
| <b>Varieties</b>          | 48       |
| <b>Pests and diseases</b> | 80       |
| <b>Seasons</b>            | 48       |

### Weather, soil and spacing

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Best temperature</b> | 18 - 27 °C  |
| <b>Rainfall</b>         | 500 - 800 mm/yr   |
| <b>Altitude</b>         | 100 - 2500 m  |
| <b>Best pH</b>          | 5.5 - 7   |
| <b>Soil type</b>        | Well-drained loam or sandy loam; Finger millet (wimbi) tolerates light and moderately poor soils. |
| <b>Row spacing</b>      | 30 cm   |
| <b>Plant spacing</b>    | 10 cm   |
| <b>Planting depth</b>   | 2 cm  |
| <b>Seed rate</b>        | 8 kg/ha   |

### Crop profile

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Growth habit</b>              | annual  |
| <b>Days to harvest</b>           | 110   |
| <b>Main uses</b>                 | Grain for porridge, ugali, baby food, local drinks, and animal feed                             |
| <b>Pollination</b>               | self  |
| <b>Origin and where it grows</b> | Finger millet (wimbi) is grown in many parts of East Africa, especially in dry and hilly areas. |

### Simple notes for farmers

**About the crop:** This crop is annual; it grows and is harvested in one season. Harvest typically starts about 110 days after planting.

**Main use:** Farmers mostly grow this crop for grain for porridge, ugali, baby food, local drinks, and animal feed.

**Pollination:** Mainly self; healthy flowers and pollinators improve fruit set.

**Where it grows:** Finger millet (wimbi) is grown in many parts of East Africa, especially in dry and hilly areas.. Grouped under: Cereals & Pseudocereals.

**Best climate:** 18 - 27 °C; 500 - 800 mm/yr; up to about 2500 m a.s.l.

**Soil:** Best at pH 5.5 - 7; well-drained loam or sandy loam; finger millet (wimbi) tolerates light and moderately poor soils..







## Nutrient requirements

| <u>Nutrient</u> | <u>Stage</u>   | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Unit</u> |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| N               | Basal          | 20            | kg/ha       |
| P?O?            | Basal          | 20            | kg/ha       |
| K?O             | Basal          | 10            | kg/ha       |
| N               | Topdress_early | 20            | kg/ha       |
| P?O?            | Topdress_early | 0             | kg/ha       |
| K?O             | Topdress_early | 10            | kg/ha       |
| N               | Topdress_late  | 10            | kg/ha       |
| P?O?            | Topdress_late  | 0             | kg/ha       |
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**Field images**



## Varieties

| <u>Name</u>          | <u>Country</u> | <u>Maturity (days)</u> | <u>Traits</u>   |
|----------------------|----------------|------------------------|---|
| P224                 | KE             | 110                    | Improved Finger millet (wimbi) variety, good grain yield and suitable for many areas. |
| U-15                 | UG             | 115                    | High-yielding, suitable for mid-altitude areas.                                       |
| Local wimbi landrace | KE             | 120                    | Adapted to local conditions, preferred taste but lower yield than improved varieties. |
| P224                 | KE             | 110                    | Improved Finger millet (wimbi) variety, good grain yield and suitable for many areas. |
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### **Fertilizer recommendations**

| <u>Stage</u>           | <u>Product</u> | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Notes</u>  |
|------------------------|----------------|-------------|---|
| Basal                  | DAP 18-46-0    | 50          | Provides phosphorus and some nitrogen for early Finger millet (wimbi) growth. |
| Topdress (early)       | CAN 26% N      | 40          | Apply when plants are 3–4 weeks old to support tillering.                     |
| Topdress (pre-heading) | Urea 46% N     | 30          | Apply when rain is expected so that it dissolves into the soil.               |
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## **Pests and diseases**

| <u>Name</u>                   | <u>Type</u> | <u>Symptoms</u>   | <u>Management</u>   |
|-------------------------------|-------------|---|---|
| Stem borers                   | pest        | Small holes in leaves, dead hearts in young Finger millet (wimbi) plants, tunneling in stems. | Destroy crop residues after harvest and avoid continuous cereal cropping on the same land.                |
| Head worms / ear caterpillars | pest        | Feeding on heads and grains, webbing, shriveled grains.                                       | Plant wimbi early and uniformly, and harvest promptly once heads mature.                                  |
| Birds                         | pest        | Grains eaten from the top of the head, scattered grains on the ground.                        | Use bird scaring, synchronized planting with neighbours and early-maturing varieties in bird-prone areas. |
| Blast disease                 | disease     | Small grey or brown spots on leaves and neck; neck may break and heads may be empty.          | Use tolerant Finger millet (wimbi) varieties, avoid very high nitrogen and practice crop rotation.        |
| Leaf spots                    | disease     | Brown or grey spots on leaves; heavy infection leads to early drying.                         | Use clean seed, avoid overcrowding and rotate with legumes or other non-cereals.                          |
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| Head worms / ear caterpillars | pest        | Feeding on heads and grains, webbing, shriveled grains.                                       | Plant wimbi early and uniformly, and harvest promptly once heads mature.                                  |
| Birds                         | pest        | Grains eaten from the top of the head, scattered grains on the ground.                        | Use bird scaring, synchronized planting with neighbours and early-maturing varieties in bird-prone areas. |
| Blast disease                 | disease     | Small grey or brown spots on leaves and neck; neck may break and heads may be empty.          | Use tolerant Finger millet (wimbi) varieties, avoid very high nitrogen and practice crop rotation.        |
| Leaf spots                    | disease     | Brown or grey spots on leaves; heavy infection leads to early drying.                         | Use clean seed, avoid overcrowding and rotate with legumes or other non-cereals.                          |
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## Yields

| <u>System</u>                             | <u>Typical</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>Max</u> | <u>Notes</u>   |
|---|----------------|------------|------------|--|
| Smallholder rainfed (low input)           | 1              | 0.5        | 1.5        | Local wimbi seed, little fertilizer, basic weeding.  |
| Smallholder rainfed (improved management) | 2              | 1.2        | 2.5        | Improved Finger millet (wimbi) varieties, recommended fertilizer and good weed and pest control. |
| High input / irrigated                    | 3              | 2.5        | 3.5        | Good varieties, moisture control and well-planned nutrition.                                     |
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### **Season calendars**

| <b>Country</b> | <b>Region</b>                           | <b>Planting</b> | <b>Harvest</b> |
|----------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| KE             | Highland and mid-altitude (long rains)  | Mar–Apr         | Aug–Sep        |
| KE             | Highland and mid-altitude (short rains) | Oct–Nov         | Feb–Mar        |
| UG             | Highland wimbi-growing areas            | Mar–Apr         | Aug–Sep        |
| KE             | Highland and mid-altitude (long rains)  | Mar–Apr         | Aug–Sep        |
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### **Region suitability**

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Region</u>   | <u>Suitability</u> |
|----------------|---|--------------------|
| KE             | Central and eastern highlands                         | High               |
| KE             | Very dry lowlands                                     | Low                |
| KE             | Western and Nyanza highlands                          | High               |
| TZ             | Northern and central highlands                        | Medium             |
| UG             | Highland and mid-altitude Finger millet (wimbi) zones | High               |

Source: **FarmLens Ltd** - [farmlens.africa](http://farmlens.africa) and [app.farmlens.africa](https://app.farmlens.africa). Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya. This guide was generated from the FarmLens database.