

# FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

## African eggplant (garden egg)

*Solanum aethiopicum*

Family: Solanaceae

Categories

Vegetables

Generated: 2026-06-03 10:49

### Quick stats

<b>Family</b>	Solanaceae
<b>Typical harvest</b>	15.0 t/ha
<b>Varieties</b>	2
<b>Pests and diseases</b>	5
<b>Seasons</b>	2

### Crop profile

<b>Growth habit</b>	annual
<b>Days to harvest</b>	90-140
<b>Main uses</b>	Fruit vegetable
<b>Pollination</b>	insect
<b>Origin and where it grows</b>	Africa; widely grown

### Weather, soil and spacing

<b>Best temperature</b>	20 - 30 °C
<b>Rainfall</b>	700 - 1200 mm/yr
<b>Altitude</b>	0 - 1800 m
<b>Best pH</b>	6 - 7
<b>Soil type</b>	Fertile loam; good drainage
<b>Row spacing</b>	90 cm
<b>Plant spacing</b>	60 cm
<b>Planting depth</b>	1 cm
<b>Seed rate</b>	0.5 kg/ha
<b>Nursery days</b>	30

### Simple notes for farmers

**About the crop:** This crop is annual; it grows and is harvested in one season. Harvest typically starts about 90-140 days after planting.

**Main use:** Farmers mostly grow this crop for fruit vegetable.

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

**Where it grows:** Africa; widely grown. Grouped under: Vegetables.

**Best climate:** 20 - 30 °C; 700 - 1200 mm/yr; up to about 1800 m a.s.l.

**Soil:** Best at pH 6 - 7; fertile loam; good drainage.

### Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<b><u>Planting</u></b>	Raise seedlings in nursery and transplant at 4-6 true leaves.
<b><u>Transplanting</u></b>	Harden seedlings for 5-7 days before transplanting.
<b><u>Irrigation</u></b>	Keep soil evenly moist, especially at flowering and fruit set.
<b><u>Fertigation</u></b>	Split nitrogen applications and increase potassium during fruiting.
<b><u>Pest scouting</u></b>	Scout weekly for aphids, whiteflies, thrips, mites, and fruit borers.
<b><u>Pruning and training</u></b>	Stake in windy fields and remove diseased lower leaves.
<b><u>Harvest</u></b>	Harvest fruits glossy and firm at 2-4 day intervals.
<b><u>Postharvest</u></b>	Handle gently; keep shaded and avoid chilling injury.

### **Field images**



### **Varieties**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Country</u></b>	<b><u>Maturity (days)</u></b>	<b><u>Traits</u></b>
Nakati type	UG	100	Uniform fruits and steady harvest
Gilo type	KE	95	Round fruits with good market acceptance

### **Fertilizer recommendations**

<b><u>Stage</u></b>	<b><u>Product</u></b>	<b><u>Rate</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>
Basal	DAP 18-46-0	90	Apply and mix into planting line before transplanting
Early vegetative	CAN 26% N	80	Apply 2-3 weeks after transplanting
Flowering to fruit set	NPK 17-17-17	100	Split into 2 applications under irrigation
Fruiting	SOP (50% K2O)	60	Support fruit fill and quality

### **Pests and diseases**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Type</u></b>	<b><u>Symptoms</u></b>	<b><u>Management</u></b>
Whiteflies	pest	Leaf yellowing, honeydew, sooty mold	Field sanitation, yellow sticky traps, and targeted sprays
Aphids	pest	Curled leaves and stunted shoots	Control weeds, conserve beneficials, and use selective sprays

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Fruit and shoot borer	pest	Bored shoots/fruits with frass	Remove infested shoots/fruits and rotate insecticide modes of action
Bacterial wilt	disease	Sudden wilting and vascular browning	Use clean seedlings, rotate with non-solanaceous crops, improve drainage
Phomopsis blight/fruit rot	disease	Leaf lesions and sunken fruit spots	Use disease-free seed, prune for airflow, apply registered fungicides

## Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
rainfed smallholder	12	8	20	
open-field irrigated	18	12	28	

## Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Eastern	Oct-Nov	Jan-Mar
KE	Central	Mar-May / Oct-Nov	Jun-Sep / Jan-Mar

## Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Central	High
KE	Coastal	High
KE	Eastern	Medium

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