FarmLens Ltd

Website: farmlens.africa | App: app.farmlens.africa | Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya

Crop details

Taro (cocoyam)

Colocasia esculenta

Family: Araceae

Categories

Roots & Tubers

Generated: 2026-03-14 14:51

Quick stats

Family	Araceae
Typical harvest	15.0 t/ha
Varieties	1
Pests and diseases	4
Seasons	1

Crop profile

Growth habit	perennial
Days to harvest	180–300
Main uses	Tuber/roots; leaves as vegetable
Pollination	insect
Origin and where it grows	Wet tropics; cultivated across humid tropics/subtropics

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	21 - 28 °C
Rainfall	1500 - 2500 mm/yr
Altitude	0 - 2000 m
Best pH	5.8 - 6.5
Soil type	Deep loam; can tolerate wetter soils
Row spacing	100 cm
Plant spacing	75 cm
Planting depth	8 cm
Seed rate	1000 kg/ha

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop is perennial; once planted it can keep producing for many years. Harvest typically starts about 180–300 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for tuber/roots; leaves as vegetable.

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

Where it grows: Wet tropics; cultivated across humid tropics/subtropics. Grouped under: Roots & Tubers.

Best climate: 21 - 28 °C; 1500 - 2500 mm/yr; up to about 2000 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 5.8 - 6.5; deep loam; can tolerate wetter soils.

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

Planting	Plant setts into moist soils/basins; mulch heavily; maintain good weed control.
Transplanting	Use healthy setts; cure before planting; avoid water stagnation around collar.
Irrigation	Maintain continuous moisture; supplemental irrigation during dry spells.
Fertigation	Split N; ensure K and Ca/Mg; respond well to organic matter inputs.
Pest scouting	Scout for taro leaf blight, mites, and corm pests; remove diseased leaves; sanitation.
Pruning and training	Not applicable.
Harvest	Harvest when leaves senesce and corms are full size; avoid damaging skins.
Postharvest	Cure in shade; store cool and humid; avoid chilling injury.

Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal	0	NPK 12-24-12	150 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Band or broadcast and incorporate
2	Topdress	60	CAN 26% N	120 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Irrigate after application

Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress	0	kg/ha

Field images

Varieties

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
Local Cocoyam	KE	240	Large corms; good leaf yield

Fertilizer recommendations

Stage	Product	Rate	Notes
Basal	NPK 12-24-12	150	
Topdress	CAN 26% N	120	Split if soils are light

Pests and diseases

Name	Type	Symptoms	Management
Taro leaf blight	disease	Leaf lesions and blight	Sanitation; spacing/airflow; protectants during wet periods
Corm rots	disease	Soft rot of corms	Well-drained beds; clean seed; rotations
Aphids/mites	pest	Leaf distortion/bronzing	Conserve predators; targeted controls if severe
Weevils	pest	Root/corm damage	Clean planting pieces; field hygiene; timely harvest

Yields

System	Typical	Min	Max	Notes
rainfed	15	8	25	

Season calendars

Country	Region	Planting	Harvest
KE	Humid zones	Mar–Apr	Sep–Dec

Region suitability

Country	Region	Suitability
KE	Humid zones	High
TZ	Humid lowlands	High
UG	Lake Victoria basin	High

Source: **FarmLens Ltd** - farmlens.africa and app.farmlens.africa. Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya. This guide was generated from the FarmLens database.