

## FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

### Taro (cocoyam)

*Colocasia esculenta*

Family: Araceae

Categories

Roots & Tubers

Generated: 2025-12-15 08:31

#### Quick stats

|                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| <u>Family</u>             | Araceae   |
| <u>Typical harvest</u>    | 15.0 t/ha |
| <u>Varieties</u>          | 1         |
| <u>Pests and diseases</u> | 4         |
| <u>Seasons</u>            | 1         |

#### Crop profile

|                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <u>Growth habit</u>              | perennial                    |
| <u>Days to harvest</u>           | 180-300                      |
| <u>Main uses</u>                 | Root/tuber; leaves vegetable |
| <u>Pollination</u>               | insect                       |
| <u>Origin and where it grows</u> | Wet tropics                  |

#### Weather, soil and spacing

|                         |                                      |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <u>Best temperature</u> | 21 - 28 °C                           |
| <u>Rainfall</u>         | 1500 - 2500 mm/yr                    |
| <u>Altitude</u>         | 0 - 2000 m                           |
| <u>Best pH</u>          | 5.8 - 6.5                            |
| <u>Soil type</u>        | Deep loam; can tolerate wetter soils |
| <u>Row spacing</u>      | 100 cm                               |
| <u>Plant spacing</u>    | 75 cm                                |
| <u>Planting depth</u>   | 8 cm                                 |
| <u>Seed rate</u>        | 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 root/tuber; leaves vegetable.

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

**Where it grows:** Wet tropics. 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)

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

### **Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)**

| <b><u>#</u></b> | <b><u>Stage</u></b> | <b><u>DAP</u></b> | <b><u>Product</u></b> | <b><u>Rate</u></b> | <b><u>Targets (kg/ha)</u></b> | <b><u>Notes</u></b>               |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 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**

| <b><u>Nutrient</u></b> | <b><u>Stage</u></b> | <b><u>Amount</u></b> | <b><u>Unit</u></b> |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 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**

| <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Country</u></b> | <b><u>Maturity (days)</u></b> | <b><u>Traits</u></b> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Local Cocoyam      | KE                    | 240                           | Large corms          |

## **Fertilizer recommendations**

| <b><u>Stage</u></b> | <b><u>Product</u></b> | <b><u>Rate</u></b> | <b><u>Notes</u></b>      |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Basal               | NPK 12-24-12          | 150                |                          |
| Topdress            | CAN 26% N             | 120                | Split if soils are light |

## **Pests and diseases**

| <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Type</u></b> | <b><u>Symptoms</u></b>   | <b><u>Management</u></b>                             |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Taro leaf blight   | disease            | Leaf lesions             | Sanitation; protectants                              |
| 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**

| <b><u>System</u></b> | <b><u>Typical</u></b> | <b><u>Min</u></b> | <b><u>Max</u></b> | <b><u>Notes</u></b> |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| rainfed              | 15                    | 8                 | 25                |                     |

## **Season calendars**

| <b><u>Country</u></b> | <b><u>Region</u></b> | <b><u>Planting</u></b> | <b><u>Harvest</u></b> |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| KE                    | Humid zones          | Mar–Apr                | Sep–Dec               |

## **Region suitability**

| <b><u>Country</u></b> | <b><u>Region</u></b> | <b><u>Suitability</u></b> |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| KE                    | Humid zones          | High                      |
| TZ                    | Humid lowlands       | High                      |
| UG                    | Lake Victoria basin  | High                      |

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.