

# FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

## Arrowroot

*Maranta arundinacea*

Family: Marantaceae

Categories

Roots & Tubers

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### Quick stats

<b>Family</b>	Marantaceae
<b>Typical harvest</b>	15.0 t/ha
<b>Varieties</b>	1
<b>Pests and diseases</b>	3
<b>Seasons</b>	1

### Crop profile

<b>Growth habit</b>	perennial
<b>Days to harvest</b>	240-360
<b>Main uses</b>	Starch root
<b>Pollination</b>	insect
<b>Origin and where it grows</b>	Tropics

### Weather, soil and spacing

<b>Best temperature</b>	22 - 30 °C
<b>Rainfall</b>	1400 - 2200 mm/yr
<b>Altitude</b>	0 - 1600 m
<b>Best pH</b>	5.5 - 6.8
<b>Soil type</b>	Deep loam; moist
<b>Row spacing</b>	100 cm
<b>Plant spacing</b>	60 cm
<b>Planting depth</b>	6 cm
<b>Seed rate</b>	1500 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 240-360 days after planting.

**Main use:** Farmers mostly grow this crop for starch root.

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

**Where it grows:** Tropics. Grouped under: Roots & Tubers.

**Best climate:** 22 - 30 °C; 1400 - 2200 mm/yr; up to about 1600 m a.s.l.

**Soil:** Best at pH 5.5 - 6.8; deep loam; moist.

### Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<b><u>Planting</u></b>	Plant healthy rhizome setts in well-prepared moist beds; maintain mulch to conserve moisture.
<b><u>Transplanting</u></b>	Not typically transplanted; use setts directly.
<b><u>Irrigation</u></b>	Requires consistent moisture; maintain evenly moist soil, avoid stagnation.
<b><u>Fertigation</u></b>	If under drip, provide small N/K feedings during rapid growth.
<b><u>Pest scouting</u></b>	Scout for weevils and leaf spots; ensure sanitation and rotation.
<b><u>Pruning and training</u></b>	Remove senescent leaves to reduce disease pressure.
<b><u>Harvest</u></b>	Harvest 8–12 months after planting when leaves begin to yellow; lift carefully to avoid breakage.
<b><u>Postharvest</u></b>	Cure briefly in shade; store cool and dry; process promptly for starch.

### **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	N/A
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

### **Field images**



### **Varieties**

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
Local Arrowroot	KE	300	High starch

### **Fertilizer recommendations**

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

### **Pests and diseases**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Weevils	pest	Root damage	Clean seed pieces; sanitation
Leaf spots	disease	Spots on foliage	Improve airflow; avoid overhead irrigation; use protectants if needed
Root rots	disease	Wilting; root decay	Avoid waterlogging; rotate; use healthy planting material

### **Yields**

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

### **Season calendars**

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Humid lowlands	Mar–Apr	Oct–Jan

### **Region suitability**

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Humid lowlands	High
KE	Riverine/irrigated zones	High
KE	Sub-humid zones	Medium

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.