FarmLens Ltd

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Crop details

Colocasia

Colocasia esculenta

Family: Araceae

Categories

Roots & Tubers

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Quick stats

Family	Araceae
Typical harvest	17.5 t/ha
Varieties	2
Pests and diseases	5
Seasons	2

Crop profile

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

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; moist
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 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; moist.

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

Planting	Use healthy corm setts/cormels. Raised beds or ridges. Keep soil moist and weed early; mulch.
Transplanting	Vegetative planting; handle setts gently to avoid rot.
Irrigation	Keep evenly moist; frequent light irrigation in dry spells.
Fertigation	Split N into small doses during vegetative growth under irrigation.
Pest scouting	Monitor for taro leaf blight and corm rots; remove infected leaves.
Pruning and training	Remove old/diseased leaves; keep beds clean.
Harvest	Harvest at full corm size (6–10 months) when lower leaves senesce.
Postharvest	Cure in shade; handle gently; store cool/ventilated.

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/broadcast and lightly incorporate
2	Topdress	60	CAN 26% N	120 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Apply on moist soil
3	Micronutrients	70	Trace mix (Zn, B)	0 —	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Foliar per label

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 Cocoyam	KE	240	Large corms; good leaf production
Dasheen type	UG	220	Leaves and corms edible; wetland tolerant

Fertilizer recommendations

Stage	Product	Rate	Notes
Basal	NPK 12-24-12	150	
Topdress	CAN 26% N	120	~60 DAP on moist soil

Pests and diseases

Name	Type	Symptoms	Management
Taro leaf blight	disease	Leaf lesions	Sanitation; protectants
Taro leaf blight (Phytophthora colocasiae)	disease	Rapid foliar blight	Sanitation; spacing; resistant lines; protectants
Corm/cormel rots (Pythium/Fusarium)	disease	Soft rot; plant collapse	Healthy seed; drainage; rotation; avoid injury
Aphids	pest	Leaf curling; sooty mold	Conserve natural enemies; soft insecticides if needed
Cutworms	pest	Cut seedlings at base	Baits; sanitation; timely replanting

Yields

System	Typical	Min	Max	Notes
rainfed	15	8	25	Fresh corms
irrigated/wetland	20	12	35	Well-managed fields

Season calendars

Country	Region	Planting	Harvest
KE	Humid zones (long rains)	Mar–Apr	Sep–Dec
KE	Humid zones (short rains)	Oct–Nov	May–Aug

Region suitability

Country	Region	Suitability
KE	Arid/semi-arid uplands	Low
KE	Humid lowlands & mid-altitudes	High
KE	Humid zones	High
TZ	Coastal & wet valley bottoms	High
UG	Lake Victoria basin	High