

FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

Irish Potato

Solanum tuberosum

Family: Solanaceae

Categories

Roots & Tubers

Generated: 2026-06-03 11:51

Quick stats

Family	Solanaceae
Typical harvest	18.7 t/ha
Varieties	48
Pests and diseases	96
Seasons	48

Crop profile

Growth habit	annual
Days to harvest	110
Main uses	Boiled, fried, mashed and roasted potatoes, crisps, chips and animal feed from rejected tubers.
Pollination	self
Origin and where it grows	Irish potato (viazi mviringo) is mainly grown in cool highland and upper mid-altitude areas with good rainfall or irrigation.

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	15 - 20 °C
Rainfall	600 - 900 mm/yr
Altitude	1500 - 3000 m
Best pH	5.5 - 6.5
Soil type	Deep, loose, well-drained loam or sandy loam with plenty of organic matter. Irish potato (viazi mviringo) forms better tubers in friable soils.
Row spacing	75 cm
Plant spacing	30 cm
Planting depth	10 cm
Seed rate	2000 kg/ha

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop is annual; it grows and is harvested in one season. Harvest typically starts about 110 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for boiled, fried, mashed and roasted potatoes, crisps, chips and animal feed from rejected tubers..

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

Where it grows: Irish potato (viazi mviringo) is mainly grown in cool highland and upper mid-altitude areas with good rainfall or irrigation.. Grouped under: Roots & Tubers.

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
2	Topdress and earthing up	30	CAN 26% N + MOP (muriate of potash)	200 kg/ha combined	N: 40, P ₂ O ₅ : 0, K ₂ O: 40	Apply along rows before earthing up Irish potato (viazi mviringo) plants.
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Nutrient requirements

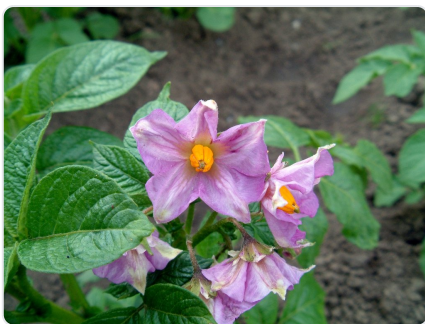
Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	60	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Basal	60	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Basal	80	kg/ha
N	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha
N	Basal	60	kg/ha
P ₂ O ₅	Basal	60	kg/ha
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P ₂ O ₅	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
K ₂ O	Topdress_early	40	kg/ha

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P?O?	Basal	60	kg/ha
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P?O?	Topdress_early	0	kg/ha
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Field images



Varieties

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Maturity (days)</u>	<u>Traits</u>
Shangi	KE	90	Very popular, early bulking, good for chips and boiling but shorter storage life.
Tigoni type	KE	110	Good yield, suitable for boiling and mashing, moderate dry matter.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Maturity (days)</u>	<u>Traits</u>
Local viazi mviringo landrace	KE	120	Traditional taste and adaptation; lower yield than improved varieties.
Shangi	KE	90	Very popular, early bulking, good for chips and boiling but shorter storage life.
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Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Basal	NPK 17-17-17 or 15-15-15	300	Provides balanced nutrients for early Irish potato (viazi mviringo) growth.
Topdress (N source)	CAN 26% N	150	Used at first earthing up on moist soil.
Topdress (K source)	Muriate of potash (MOP)	100	Supports tuber bulking and quality, especially in K-deficient soils.
Organic	Well-rotted farmyard manure	8000	Improves soil structure and water holding; apply before final land preparation.
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Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Late blight	disease	Dark, water-soaked patches on leaves and stems of Irish potato (viazi mviringo), with white mould at edges in wet weather; tuber rots in store.	Use resistant varieties where available, spray protectant and systemic fungicides as recommended and destroy infected crop residues.
Early blight	disease	Brown spots with concentric rings on older leaves, leading to early defoliation.	Maintain good nutrition, especially nitrogen and potassium, and use fungicides where disease pressure is high.
Potato tuber moth	pest	Tunnels in stems and tubers, with frass and webbing. Damage worsens in store.	Earth up well to cover tubers, avoid cracked ridges and use fine mesh or covers in stores.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Aphids	pest	Clusters of small insects on stems and leaf undersides, sticky honeydew and curled leaves; important virus vectors.	Use healthy seed, monitor often and control high aphid populations early.
Bacterial wilt	disease	Sudden wilting of Irish potato (viazi mviringo) plants without yellowing; brown ooze from cut stems and tuber rings.	Use clean seed, avoid planting in infested fields and rotate for several years with non-solanaceous crops.
Common scab	disease	Rough, corky spots and scabs on potato tuber skin.	Avoid very dry conditions at tuber initiation and keep soil slightly acidic (pH around 5.5–6.0).
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Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Smallholder rainfed (low input)	8	5	12	Local seed, limited fertilizer and basic disease control.
Smallholder rainfed (improved management)	18	12	25	Clean seed, recommended fertilizer and regular blight control.
High input / irrigated	30	20	40	High-yield varieties, fertile soils, irrigation and full spray programme.
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Season calendars

Country	Region	Planting	Harvest
KE	Highland main season (long rains)	Mar–Apr	Jul–Sep
KE	Highland short-rains season	Oct–Nov	Feb–Mar
TZ	Northern and southern highlands	Apr–May	Aug–Oct
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Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Central and Rift Valley highlands	High
KE	Highland parts of western Kenya	High
KE	Hot lowland areas	Low
TZ	Northern and southern highland potato zones	High
UG	South-western and Mt Elgon highlands	High

Source: **FarmLens Ltd** - farmlens.africa and [app.farmlens.africa](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.farmlens.africa). Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya. This guide was generated from the FarmLens database.