FarmLens Ltd

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Crop details

Elephant Foot Yam

Amorphophallus paeoniifolius

Family: Araceae

Categories

Roots & Tubers

Generated: 2026-06-03 12:10

Quick stats

Family	Araceae
Typical harvest	21.0 t/ha
Varieties	2
Pests and diseases	3
Seasons	2

Crop profile

Growth habit	perennial
Days to harvest	240-360
Main uses	Tuber crop
Pollination	insect
Origin and where it grows	South/Southeast Asia; tropics

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	24 - 32 °C
Rainfall	1200 - 1800 mm/yr
Altitude	0 - 1200 m
Best pH	6 - 7
Soil type	Deep, fertile loam
Row spacing	100 cm
Plant spacing	100 cm
Planting depth	10 cm
Seed rate	1200 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 tuber crop.

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

Where it grows: South/Southeast Asia; tropics. Grouped under: Roots & Tubers.

Best climate: 24 - 32 °C; 1200 - 1800 mm/yr; up to about 1200 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 6 - 7; deep, fertile loam.

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

Planting	Establish Elephant Foot Yam in a fine weed-free seedbed and keep emergence moisture steady.
Transplanting	Direct seed or transplant depending on production system.
Irrigation	Maintain even soil moisture for steady Elephant Foot Yam growth and quality.
Fertigation	Use split nitrogen and potassium for market-quality Elephant Foot Yam.
Pest scouting	Scout Elephant Foot Yam weekly for chewing pests, sap suckers, and foliar diseases.
Pruning and training	No pruning required unless sanitation or staking is needed.
Harvest	Harvest Elephant Foot Yam when roots size up well before they become fibrous or pithy.
Postharvest	Cool and shade Elephant Foot Yam promptly after harvest.

Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	150 kg/ha	N: 34, P?O?: 34, K?O: 34	Basal fertilizer for Elephant Foot Yam.
2	Topdress	60	Urea	120 kg/ha	N: 26, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Support active Elephant Foot Yam vegetative growth.

Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	60	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	40	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress	60	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress	20	kg/ha

Field images



Varieties

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
Local Elephant Yam	KE	300	Large corms

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
Local Elephant Foot Yam	TZ	260	Large corm type for cooking and flour.

Fertilizer recommendations

Stage	Product	Rate	Notes
Basal	NPK 17-17-17	150	
Planting	Well-rotted manure	5000	Improve soil structure before Elephant Foot Yam planting.
Vegetative growth	CAN	100	Split topdress for Elephant Foot Yam production.

Pests and diseases

Name	Type	Symptoms	Management
Tuber rot	disease	Rotting setts	Curing; drainage; seed treatment
Root maggots	pest	Tunneling and feeding damage on roots.	Rotate crops and maintain field sanitation.
Root cracking and rot	disease	Cracked or rotting roots under uneven moisture.	Maintain even moisture and use well-drained soils.

Yields

System	Typical	Min	Max	Notes
rainfed	20	12	35	
Managed fresh-market production	22	15.4	33	Typical marketable Elephant Foot Yam yield under irrigated or well-managed conditions.

Season calendars

Country	Region	Planting	Harvest
KE	Humid zones	Mar–Apr	Dec–Feb
KE	Highland Vegetable Zones	Mar-Apr or Oct-Nov	Year-round depending on irrigation

Region suitability

Country	Region	Suitability
KE	Highland Vegetable Zones	High
KE	Humid zones	Medium