

# FarmLens Ltd

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Crop details

## Dessert Banana

*Musa spp. (AAA, AAB)*

Family: Musaceae

Categories

Bananas & Plantains

Generated: 2026-06-03 13:23

### Quick stats

<b>Family</b>	Musaceae
<b>Typical harvest</b>	22.5 t/ha
<b>Varieties</b>	1
<b>Pests and diseases</b>	4
<b>Seasons</b>	2

### Crop profile

<b>Growth habit</b>	perennial
<b>Days to harvest</b>	280-420
<b>Main uses</b>	Sweet dessert fruit
<b>Pollination</b>	vegetative
<b>Origin and where it grows</b>	SE Asia; tropical Africa widely grown

### Weather, soil and spacing

<b>Best temperature</b>	22 - 28 °C
<b>Rainfall</b>	1200 - 2000 mm/yr
<b>Altitude</b>	0 - 1600 m
<b>Best pH</b>	6 - 6.8
<b>Soil type</b>	Deep loam; high OM; irrigable
<b>Row spacing</b>	300 cm
<b>Plant spacing</b>	300 cm
<b>Planting depth</b>	30 cm
<b>Seed rate</b>	kg/ha (check local recommendation)
<b>Nursery days</b>	180

### Simple notes for farmers

**About the crop:** This crop is perennial; once planted it can keep producing for many years. Harvest typically starts about 280-420 days after planting.

**Main use:** Farmers mostly grow this crop for sweet dessert fruit.

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

**Where it grows:** SE Asia; tropical Africa widely grown. Grouped under: Bananas & Plantains.

**Best climate:** 22 - 28 °C; 1200 - 2000 mm/yr; up to about 1600 m a.s.l.

**Soil:** Best at pH 6 - 6.8; deep loam; high om; irrigable.

### Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<b><u>Planting</u></b>	Plant healthy Dessert Banana seedlings or grafted plants at onset of rains in prepared pits.
<b><u>Transplanting</u></b>	Handle Dessert Banana rootballs carefully and water well after planting.
<b><u>Irrigation</u></b>	Maintain steady moisture during establishment and fruit development of Dessert Banana.
<b><u>Fertigation</u></b>	Split nutrients through active growth and fruit development in Dessert Banana.
<b><u>Pest scouting</u></b>	Scout Dessert Banana regularly for fruit flies, scales, borers, and foliar diseases.
<b><u>Pruning and training</u></b>	Prune Dessert Banana to maintain canopy light, height, and sanitation.
<b><u>Harvest</u></b>	Harvest Dessert Banana at the right maturity stage for fresh-market quality.
<b><u>Postharvest</u></b>	Keep Dessert Banana shaded and cool after harvest to preserve market quality.

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

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Planting	0	NPK 15-15-15	180 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Improve rooting environment for Dessert Banana.
2	Vegetative	90	CAN 26% N	120 kg/ha	N: 34, P?O?: 34, K?O: 34	Balanced nutrient support for Dessert Banana.

### **Nutrient requirements**

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	60	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	40	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	120	kg/ha
N	Topdress	60	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress	80	kg/ha
N	Fruiting	40	kg/ha
K?O	Fruiting	50	kg/ha

### **Field images**



### **Varieties**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Maturity (days)</u>	<u>Traits</u>
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Cavendish	KE	360	Market-preferred dessert
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### **Fertilizer recommendations**

<b><u>Stage</u></b>	<b><u>Product</u></b>	<b><u>Rate</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>
Planting	NPK 15-15-15	180	
Planting	Well-rotted manure	8000	Organic matter for Dessert Banana establishment.
Pre-fruiting	NPK 17-17-17	200	Balanced fertilizer ahead of major Dessert Banana crop load.

### **Pests and diseases**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Type</u></b>	<b><u>Symptoms</u></b>	<b><u>Management</u></b>
Banana weevil	pest	Corm tunnelling	Clean planting material; traps
Fusarium wilt (TR4 not typical)	disease	Yellowing; vascular browning	Hygiene; tolerant cultivars
Fruit flies	pest	Stings, larval feeding, and rotting fruits.	Field sanitation, trapping, and timely harvest.
Anthracnose and fruit rots	disease	Lesions on flowers, leaves, or fruits reducing quality.	Prune for airflow, keep orchards clean, and protect during wet periods.

### **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/irrigated	25	12	40	
Managed orchard production	20	12	32	Typical orchard yield for Dessert Banana under practical management.

### **Season calendars**

<b><u>Country</u></b>	<b><u>Region</u></b>	<b><u>Planting</u></b>	<b><u>Harvest</u></b>
KE	Humid/irrigated zones	Mar–May / Sep–Nov	All year (from 10–14 mo)
KE	Managed Orchard Zones	Mar-Apr or Oct-Nov	Depends on variety and agroecology

### **Region suitability**

<b><u>Country</u></b>	<b><u>Region</u></b>	<b><u>Suitability</u></b>
KE	Humid/irrigated zones	High
KE	Managed Orchard Zones	Medium

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.