

# FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

## Bay Leaf

*Laurus nobilis*

Family: Lauraceae

Categories

Vegetables

Spices & Condiments

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### Quick stats

<b>Family</b>	Lauraceae
<b>Typical harvest</b>	3.5 t/ha
<b>Varieties</b>	1
<b>Pests and diseases</b>	2
<b>Seasons</b>	1

### Crop profile

<b>Growth habit</b>	tree
<b>Days to harvest</b>	365
<b>Main uses</b>	Leaves dried and used as spice in stews and sauces.
<b>Pollination</b>	insect
<b>Origin and where it grows</b>	Tree herb suited to mild highland home gardens and estates.

### Weather, soil and spacing

<b>Best temperature</b>	14 - 24 °C
<b>Rainfall</b>	450 - 800 mm/yr
<b>Altitude</b>	800 - 2800 m
<b>Best pH</b>	6 - 7
<b>Soil type</b>	Fertile well-drained loam rich in organic matter.
<b>Row spacing</b>	35 cm
<b>Plant spacing</b>	20 cm
<b>Planting depth</b>	1.5 cm
<b>Seed rate</b>	3 kg/ha

### Simple notes for farmers

**About the crop:** This crop has a growth habit described as "tree". Harvest typically starts about 365 days after planting.

**Main use:** Farmers mostly grow this crop for leaves dried and used as spice in stews and sauces..

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

**Where it grows:** Tree herb suited to mild highland home gardens and estates.. Grouped under: Vegetables, Spices & Condiments.

**Best climate:** 14 - 24 °C; 450 - 800 mm/yr; up to about 2800 m a.s.l.

**Soil:** Best at pH 6 - 7; fertile well-drained loam rich in organic matter..

### Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<b><u>Planting</u></b>	Establish Bay Leaf in a fine weed-free seedbed and keep emergence moisture steady.
<b><u>Transplanting</u></b>	Direct seed or transplant depending on production system.
<b><u>Irrigation</u></b>	Maintain even soil moisture for steady Bay Leaf growth and quality.
<b><u>Fertigation</u></b>	Use split nitrogen and potassium for market-quality Bay Leaf.
<b><u>Pest scouting</u></b>	Scout Bay Leaf weekly for chewing pests, sap suckers, and foliar diseases.
<b><u>Pruning and training</u></b>	No pruning required unless sanitation or staking is needed.
<b><u>Harvest</u></b>	Harvest Bay Leaf in the cool hours and handle gently to preserve aroma.
<b><u>Postharvest</u></b>	Cool and shade Bay Leaf promptly after harvest.

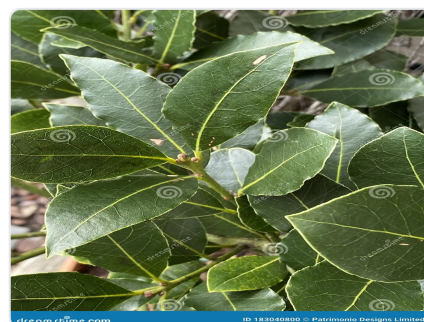
### **Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)**

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	200 kg/ha	N: 34, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : 34, K <sub>2</sub> O: 34	Basal fertilizer for Bay Leaf.
2	Topdress	21	CAN	100 kg/ha	N: 26, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : N/A, K <sub>2</sub> O: N/A	Support active Bay Leaf vegetative growth.

### **Nutrient requirements**

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	35	kg/ha
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Basal	30	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Basal	35	kg/ha
N	Topdress	25	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Topdress	20	kg/ha

### **Field images**



### **Varieties**

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
True Bay	KE	365	Evergreen spice tree.

### **Fertilizer recommendations**

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Planting	Well-rotted manure	5000	Improve soil structure before Bay Leaf planting.
Vegetative growth	CAN	100	Split topdress for Bay Leaf production.

### **Pests and diseases**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Aphids	pest	Crowding on tender shoots and reduced growth.	Use clean fields and selective control if needed.
Powdery mildew	disease	White powdery growth on leaves.	Improve airflow and avoid overcrowding.

### **Yields**

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Managed fresh-market production	3.5	2.4	5.3	Typical marketable Bay Leaf yield under irrigated or well-managed conditions.

### **Season calendars**

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Highland Vegetable Zones	Mar-Apr or Oct-Nov	Year-round depending on irrigation

### **Region suitability**

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Highland Vegetable Zones	High

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.