

FarmLens Ltd

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Crop details

Dragon Fruit

Selenicereus undatus

Family: Cactaceae

Categories

Fruits & Nuts

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Quick stats

Family	Cactaceae
Typical harvest	14.0 t/ha
Varieties	1
Pests and diseases	2
Seasons	1

Crop profile

Growth habit	climber
Days to harvest	365
Main uses	Fresh fruit for premium urban markets and export niches.
Pollination	insect
Origin and where it grows	Expanding in warm dry to sub-humid zones with irrigation support.

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	18 - 32 °C
Rainfall	600 - 1200 mm/yr
Altitude	0 - 1800 m
Best pH	6 - 7
Soil type	Deep, fertile, well-drained soil with good organic matter.
Row spacing	300 cm
Plant spacing	250 cm
Planting depth	30 cm
Seed rate	kg/ha (check local recommendation)
Nursery days	180

Simple notes for farmers

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

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for fresh fruit for premium urban markets and export niches..

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

Where it grows: Expanding in warm dry to sub-humid zones with irrigation support.. Grouped under: Fruits & Nuts.

Best climate: 18 - 32 °C; 600 - 1200 mm/yr; up to about 1800 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 6 - 7; deep, fertile, well-drained soil with good organic matter..

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

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

Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Planting or season start	0	Well-rotted manure	8000 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Improve rooting environment for Dragon Fruit.
2	Pre-fruiting	90	NPK 17-17-17	200 kg/ha	N: 34, P?O?: 34, K?O: 34	Balanced nutrient support for Dragon Fruit.

Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Fruiting	40	kg/ha
K?O	Fruiting	50	kg/ha

Field images



Varieties

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
White-fleshed Dragon Fruit	KE	365	Climbing cactus with high-value fruit.

Fertilizer recommendations

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

Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Fruit flies	pest	Stings, larval feeding, and rotting fruits.	Field sanitation, trapping, and timely harvest.
Anthraxnose and fruit rots	disease	Lesions on flowers, leaves, or fruits reducing quality.	Prune for airflow, keep orchards clean, and protect during wet periods.

Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Managed orchard production	14	8.4	22.4	Typical orchard yield for Dragon Fruit under practical management.

Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Managed Orchard Zones	Mar-Apr or Oct-Nov	Depends on variety and agroecology

Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Managed Orchard Zones	Medium

Source: FarmLens Ltd - farmlens.africa and app.farmlens.africa. Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya. This guide was generated from the FarmLens database.