

# FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

## Bottle gourd

*Lagenaria siceraria*

Family: Cucurbitaceae

Categories

Vegetables

Generated: 2026-06-03 12:10

### Quick stats

<b>Family</b>	Cucurbitaceae
<b>Typical harvest</b>	18.0 t/ha
<b>Varieties</b>	1
<b>Pests and diseases</b>	3
<b>Seasons</b>	2

### Crop profile

<b>Growth habit</b>	annual
<b>Days to harvest</b>	90-130
<b>Main uses</b>	Fruit vegetable; utensils (dry shell)
<b>Pollination</b>	insect
<b>Origin and where it grows</b>	Tropics

### Weather, soil and spacing

<b>Best temperature</b>	22 - 30 °C
<b>Rainfall</b>	600 - 900 mm/yr
<b>Altitude</b>	0 - 1600 m
<b>Best pH</b>	6 - 7
<b>Soil type</b>	Fertile, well-drained loam
<b>Row spacing</b>	200 cm
<b>Plant spacing</b>	100 cm
<b>Planting depth</b>	2 cm
<b>Seed rate</b>	2 kg/ha
<b>Nursery days</b>	18

## Simple notes for farmers

**About the crop:** This crop is annual; it grows and is harvested in one season. Harvest typically starts about 90-130 days after planting.

**Main use:** Farmers mostly grow this crop for fruit vegetable; utensils (dry shell).

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

**Where it grows:** Tropics. Grouped under: Vegetables.

**Best climate:** 22 - 30 °C; 600 - 900 mm/yr; up to about 1600 m a.s.l.

**Soil:** Best at pH 6 - 7; fertile, well-drained loam.

## Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<b><u>Planting</u></b>	Plant into fertile, well-drained beds; provide strong trellis for vines; mulch to conserve moisture.
<b><u>Transplanting</u></b>	Transplant at 3–4 true leaves; avoid root disturbance; water in well.
<b><u>Irrigation</u></b>	Maintain steady moisture; increase during flowering/fruit set; avoid wet foliage at night.
<b><u>Fertigation</u></b>	If drip is available, split N and K weekly during fruiting.
<b><u>Pest scouting</u></b>	Scout for fruit fly and downy/powdery mildew; remove infested fruit; use traps and sanitation.
<b><u>Pruning and training</u></b>	Train main vine on trellis; prune excess laterals for airflow and fruit quality.
<b><u>Harvest</u></b>	Harvest immature fruits 12–20 days after set for vegetables; leave longer for utensil shells.
<b><u>Postharvest</u></b>	Shade-cool; store at ~10–12 °C with high RH; handle gently to avoid scuffing.

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

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal	0	DAP 18-46-0	100 kg/ha	N: N/A, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : N/A, K <sub>2</sub> O: N/A	Band 5–8 cm from seedlings; avoid seed burn
2	Veg	25	CAN 26% N	100 kg/ha	N: N/A, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : N/A, K <sub>2</sub> O: N/A	Irrigate after application
3	Micros	28	Trace mix (Zn, B)	0 —	N: N/A, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : N/A, K <sub>2</sub> O: N/A	Foliar—follow label; apply early morning/evening

### **Nutrient requirements**

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Basal	40	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress	40	kg/ha
N	Veg	40	kg/ha

### **Field images**



### **Varieties**

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
------	---------	-----------------	--------

Calabash Local	KE	110	Long vines
----------------	----	-----	------------

### **Fertilizer recommendations**

<b><u>Stage</u></b>	<b><u>Product</u></b>	<b><u>Rate</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>
Basal	DAP 18-46-0	100	
Veg	CAN 26% N	100	Split if soils are light

### **Pests and diseases**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Type</u></b>	<b><u>Symptoms</u></b>	<b><u>Management</u></b>
Fruit fly	pest	Oviposition stings	Bait traps; sanitation
Downy mildew	disease	Leaf blight under humid conditions	Improve airflow; avoid overhead irrigation; protective sprays when needed
Powdery mildew	disease	White powder on leaves	Sanitation; sulfur or labeled fungicides as needed

### **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>
open-field	18	10	30	

### **Season calendars**

<b><u>Country</u></b>	<b><u>Region</u></b>	<b><u>Planting</u></b>	<b><u>Harvest</u></b>
KE	Lowlands	Mar–Apr	Jun–Aug
KE	Irrigated schemes	Year-round (staggered)	—

### **Region suitability**

<b><u>Country</u></b>	<b><u>Region</u></b>	<b><u>Suitability</u></b>
KE	Lowlands	High
TZ	Coastal belt	High
UG	Lake Victoria basin (warm zones)	Medium

Source: FarmLens Ltd - [farmlens.africa](http://farmlens.africa) and [app.farmlens.africa](https://app.farmlens.africa). Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya. This guide was generated from the FarmLens database.