

FarmLens Ltd

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Crop details

Spider plant (Cleome gynandra)

Cleome gynandra

Family: Cleomaceae

Categories

Vegetables

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Quick stats

Family	Cleomaceae
Typical harvest	9.0 t/ha
Varieties	4
Pests and diseases	7
Seasons	4

Crop profile

Growth habit	annual
Days to harvest	30–90
Main uses	Leafy vegetable (fresh/cooked); medicinal/culinary herb
Pollination	insect
Origin and where it grows	Africa & Asia tropics/subtropics; common in smallholder systems

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	20 - 30 °C
Rainfall	500 - 900 mm/yr
Altitude	0 - 2200 m
Best pH	6 - 7
Soil type	Well-drained loam/sandy loam; fertile and friable
Row spacing	40 cm
Plant spacing	30 cm
Planting depth	1 cm
Seed rate	3 kg/ha
Nursery days	25

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop is annual; it grows and is harvested in one season. Harvest typically starts about 30–90 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for leafy vegetable (fresh/cooked); medicinal/culinary herb.

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

Where it grows: Africa & Asia tropics/subtropics; common in smallholder systems. Grouped under: Vegetables.

Best climate: 20 - 30 °C; 500 - 900 mm/yr; up to about 2200 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 6 - 7; well-drained loam/sandy loam; fertile and friable.

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<u>Planting</u>	Direct-seed or raise seedlings; thin early for uniform stands. Sow with onset of rains or irrigate lightly.
<u>Transplanting</u>	Transplant at 3–4 weeks with 3–4 true leaves; avoid root disturbance.
<u>Irrigation</u>	Keep evenly moist; shallow frequent irrigations preferred on light soils.
<u>Fertigation</u>	Split light N doses; ensure P and K; avoid excessive N to limit nitrate accumulation.
<u>Pest scouting</u>	Scout for aphids, flea beetles, leaf miners, and mites; remove infested leaves; maintain field hygiene.
<u>Pruning and training</u>	Pinch early to encourage branching; stagger sowings for continuous harvest.
<u>Harvest</u>	Start leafy harvest 30–40 DAS; pick young shoots/leaves regularly to maintain tenderness.
<u>Postharvest</u>	Hydro-cool or shade-cool; bunch loosely; store cool and humid; very perishable at ambient.

Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	<u>Stage</u>	<u>DAP</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Targets (kg/ha)</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1	Basal	0	NPK 17-17-17	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K? O: N/A	Band or broadcast and incorporate lightly
2	Topdress 1	20	CAN 26% N	60 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K? O: N/A	Irrigate after application
3	Micronutrient (opt.)	25	Ca/B/Zn foliar (as label)	0 —	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K? O: N/A	Apply during cool hours if deficiency observed

Nutrient requirements

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
N	Basal	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	25	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	30	kg/ha
N	Topdress	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress	20	kg/ha

Field images



Varieties

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Maturity (days)</u>	<u>Traits</u>
Cleome Local	KE	55	Fast regrowth
Local Cleome	KE	55	Tender leaves
Local spider plant (green stem)	KE	45	Tender leaves; multi-pick
Local spider plant (purple stem)	UG	45	Pigmented stems; leafy yield

Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Basal	NPK 17-17-17	80	
Topdress	CAN 26% N	60	Split in light doses on sandy soils

Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Aphids	pest	Leaf curling; honeydew; sooty mold	Conserve predators; control ants; soft insecticides if needed
Flea beetles	pest	Shot-holes in leaves; seedling damage	Fine mesh covers; early weeding; spot treatments
Leaf miners	pest	Winding mines in leaves	Remove mined leaves; monitor; IPM controls
Spider mites	pest	Stippling; webbing under hot, dry spells	Maintain humidity; targeted miticides if severe
Damping-off	disease	Seedling collapse in nursery/field edges	Seedbed hygiene; avoid overwatering; seed treatment
Leaf spots (Alternaria)	disease	Circular/irregular lesions on foliage	Field sanitation; rotation; protectants if persistent
Whiteflies	pest	Yellowing; honeydew; vectoring viruses	Yellow traps; natural enemies; selective controls

Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
rainfed smallholder	6	3	9	
open-field	12	6	20	Cumulative fresh-leaf yield across multiple pickings

Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Western/Eastern	Feb–Apr / Sep–Oct	Apr–Jun / Nov–Dec
KE	Highlands & mid-altitudes (long rains)	Mar–Apr	Apr–Jun

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Highlands & mid-altitudes (short rains)	Oct–Nov	Nov–Jan
UG	Lake Victoria crescent	Mar–Apr	Apr–Jun

Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Cold high altitude (>2500 m)	Low
KE	Highlands & cool mid-altitudes	High
KE	Nyanza	N/A
KE	Semi-arid lowlands (with irrigation)	Medium
KE	Western/Eastern	High
TZ	Northern highlands	High
UG	Lake Victoria basin	High

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