

# FarmLens Ltd

Website: farmlens.africa | App: app.farmlens.africa | Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya



Crop details

## Swiss chard (silverbeet)

*Beta vulgaris var. cicla*

Family: Amaranthaceae

Categories

Vegetables

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### Quick stats

<b>Family</b>	Amaranthaceae
<b>Typical harvest</b>	12.0 t/ha
<b>Varieties</b>	1
<b>Pests and diseases</b>	4
<b>Seasons</b>	1

### Crop profile

<b>Growth habit</b>	biennial
<b>Days to harvest</b>	60–120
<b>Main uses</b>	Leafy vegetable
<b>Pollination</b>	wind
<b>Origin and where it grows</b>	Temperate; widely grown in East African highlands

### Weather, soil and spacing

<b>Best temperature</b>	12 - 22 °C
<b>Rainfall</b>	500 - 800 mm/yr
<b>Altitude</b>	0 - 2600 m
<b>Best pH</b>	6.2 - 7
<b>Soil type</b>	Fertile loam; well-drained
<b>Row spacing</b>	40 cm
<b>Plant spacing</b>	30 cm
<b>Planting depth</b>	1.5 cm
<b>Seed rate</b>	8 kg/ha

### Simple notes for farmers

**About the crop:** This crop is biennial; it usually needs two seasons to complete its cycle. Harvest typically starts about 60–120 days after planting.

**Main use:** Farmers mostly grow this crop for leafy vegetable.

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

**Where it grows:** Temperate; widely grown in East African highlands. Grouped under: Vegetables.

**Best climate:** 12 - 22 °C; 500 - 800 mm/yr; up to about 2600 m a.s.l.

**Soil:** Best at pH 6.2 - 7; fertile loam; well-drained.

### Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<b><u>Planting</u></b>	Direct seed in fine, firm seedbed or transplant sturdy plugs; thin for uniform plants.
<b><u>Transplanting</u></b>	Transplant at 3–4 true leaves if using plugs; avoid root damage.
<b><u>Irrigation</u></b>	Maintain consistent moisture; shallow frequent irrigation in light soils.
<b><u>Fertigation</u></b>	Split light N through early-mid growth; avoid excess late N to limit nitrate buildup.
<b><u>Pest scouting</u></b>	Scout for leaf miners and aphids; remove affected leaves; rotate fields.
<b><u>Pruning and training</u></b>	Not required.
<b><u>Harvest</u></b>	Harvest outer leaves regularly; avoid damaging growing point.
<b><u>Postharvest</u></b>	Hydro-cool or shade-cool; bundle loosely; store cool and humid; highly perishable at ambient.

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

<b><u>#</u></b>	<b><u>Stage</u></b>	<b><u>DAP</u></b>	<b><u>Product</u></b>	<b><u>Rate</u></b>	<b><u>Targets (kg/ha)</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>
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	30	CAN 26% N	80 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Irrigate after application

### **Nutrient requirements**

<b><u>Nutrient</u></b>	<b><u>Stage</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Unit</u></b>
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Topdress	0	kg/ha
K?O	Topdress	20	kg/ha

### **Field images**



### **Varieties**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Country</u></b>	<b><u>Maturity (days)</u></b>	<b><u>Traits</u></b>
Fordhook Giant	KE	70	Large leaves; vigorous regrowth

## **Fertilizer recommendations**

<b><u>Stage</u></b>	<b><u>Product</u></b>	<b><u>Rate</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>
Basal	NPK 17-17-17	80	
Topdress	CAN 26% N	80	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>
Leaf miner	pest	Winding mines in leaves	Remove mined leaves; monitor; IPM controls
Aphids	pest	Leaf curling; honeydew	Conserve predators; control ants; soft insecticides if needed
Leaf spots	disease	Spots on leaves reducing area	Rotation; protectants as needed; sanitation
Downy mildew	disease	Yellowing with downy growth	Airflow; resistant types; timely fungicide

## **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	12	8	20	

## **Season calendars**

<b><u>Country</u></b>	<b><u>Region</u></b>	<b><u>Planting</u></b>	<b><u>Harvest</u></b>
KE	Highlands	Feb–Apr	Apr–Aug

## **Region suitability**

<b><u>Country</u></b>	<b><u>Region</u></b>	<b><u>Suitability</u></b>
KE	Highlands	High
TZ	Northern highlands	High
UG	Lake Victoria basin	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.