

FarmLens Ltd

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Crop details

Lettuce

Lactuca sativa

Family: Asteraceae

Categories

Vegetables

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Quick stats

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| <u>Family</u> | Asteraceae |
| <u>Typical harvest</u> | 15.0 t/ha |
| <u>Varieties</u> | 4 |
| <u>Pests and diseases</u> | 6 |
| <u>Seasons</u> | 4 |

Crop profile

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>Growth habit</u> | annual |
| <u>Days to harvest</u> | 45-80 |
| <u>Main uses</u> | Leafy vegetable |
| <u>Pollination</u> | self |
| <u>Origin and where it grows</u> | Temperate; widely grown |

Weather, soil and spacing

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Best temperature</u> | 12 - 20 °C |
| <u>Rainfall</u> | 400 - 700 mm/yr |
| <u>Altitude</u> | 0 - 2600 m |
| <u>Best pH</u> | 6.2 - 7 |
| <u>Soil type</u> | Fertile, well-drained |
| <u>Row spacing</u> | 40 cm |
| <u>Plant spacing</u> | 30 cm |
| <u>Planting depth</u> | 1 cm |
| <u>Seed rate</u> | 2 kg/ha |
| <u>Nursery days</u> | 25 |

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop is annual; it grows and is harvested in one season. Harvest typically starts about 45-80 days after planting.

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

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

Where it grows: Temperate; widely grown. Grouped under: Vegetables.

Best climate: 12 - 20 °C; 400 - 700 mm/yr; up to about 2600 m a.s.l.

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

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <u>Planting</u> | Prefer cool season. Use nursery or plug trays; transplant at 4–5 true leaves. Maintain even moisture. |
| <u>Transplanting</u> | Transplant late afternoon; avoid burying crown; firm soil around roots. |
| <u>Irrigation</u> | Shallow roots: frequent light irrigations; avoid wetting leaves late day to reduce disease. |
| <u>Fertigation</u> | Low-to-moderate N in small doses; include Ca/Mg if water/soil is low. |
| <u>Pest scouting</u> | Scout for aphids, leaf miners, cutworms, downy mildew, and tipburn (physiological). |
| <u>Pruning and training</u> | Not required; remove outer damaged leaves. |
| <u>Harvest</u> | Harvest at full size before bolting; cool immediately to maintain crispness. |
| <u>Postharvest</u> | Hydrocool/shade-cool; store 0–2 °C (leaf types) or 1–4 °C (heads) at high RH; avoid crushing. |

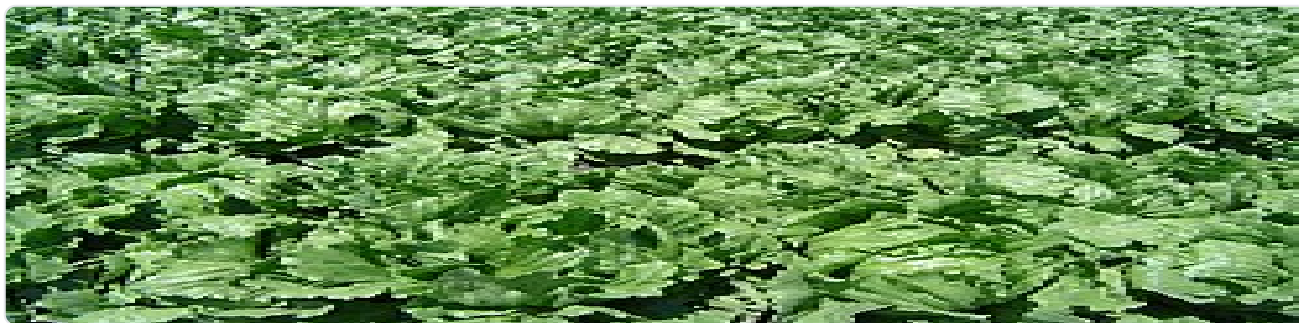
Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

| # | <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 | 60 kg/ha | N: 10, P ₂ O ₅ : 10, K ₂ O: 10 | Band lightly 5 cm from row; incorporate |
| 2 | Topdress 1 (veg) | 20 | CAN 26% N | 60 kg/ha | N: 16, P ₂ O ₅ : N/A, K ₂ O: N/A | Irrigate after application |
| 3 | Topdress 2 (pre-heading) | 35 | KNO ₃ (optional) | 30 kg/ha | N: N/A, P ₂ O ₅ : N/A, K ₂ O: 15 | Boost K; improves quality and shelf life |
| 4 | Micronutrient foliar (opt.) | 25 | Trace mix (Ca, Mg, B) as label | 0 — | N: N/A, P ₂ O ₅ : N/A, K ₂ O: N/A | Helps reduce tipburn under rapid growth |

Nutrient requirements

| <u>Nutrient</u> | <u>Stage</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Unit</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| N | Basal | 40 | kg/ha |
| P ₂ O ₅ | Basal | 25 | kg/ha |
| K ₂ O | Basal | 30 | kg/ha |
| N | Vegetative | 30 | kg/ha |
| K ₂ O | Vegetative | 20 | kg/ha |
| N | Heading | 20 | kg/ha |
| K ₂ O | Heading | 20 | kg/ha |

Field images



Varieties

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Country</u> | <u>Maturity (days)</u> | <u>Traits</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------|---|
| Great Lakes | KE | 55 | Crisphead |
| Great Lakes (crisphead) | KE | 55 | Crisp heads; cool-season |
| Romaine (cos types) | KE | 60 | Upright heads; heat-tolerant selections |
| Butterhead/Bibb | UG | 55 | Tender leaves; cool conditions |

Fertilizer recommendations

| <u>Stage</u> | <u>Product</u> | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Basal | NPK 17-17-17 | 60 | Incorporate before transplant |
| Topdress | CAN 26% N | 60 | Apply in moist soil; split if needed |
| Pre-heading | Potassium nitrate (KNO ₃) | 30 | Optional quality boost |

Pests and diseases

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Type</u> | <u>Symptoms</u> | <u>Management</u> |
|---------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Aphids | pest | Leaf curling | Natural enemies; soft sprays |
| Leaf miners | pest | Mines in leaves | Remove mined leaves; rotate chemistries; traps |
| Cutworms | pest | Cut seedlings at base | Baits; evening scouting; field sanitation |
| Downy mildew | disease | Yellow patches; downy growth below | Airflow; resistant types; protectants |
| Bottom rot/soft rot | disease | Base/butt rot in wet soils | Drainage; rotation; avoid overhead late |
| Tipburn (physiol.) | disorder | Brown leaf margins in heads | Even moisture; adequate Ca; moderate growth rate |

Yields

| <u>System</u> | <u>Typical</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>Max</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|---------------------|----------------|------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| open-field | 12 | 8 | 20 | Depends on type and season |
| protected/irrigated | 18 | 12 | 25 | Good fertility & temperature control |

Season calendars

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Region</u> | <u>Planting</u> | <u>Harvest</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| KE | Highlands | Feb–Apr | Apr–Jun |
| KE | Highlands (cool season) | Jul–Aug | Sep–Nov |
| UG | Highlands & cool valleys | Mar–Apr | May–Jul |
| TZ | Northern highlands | Jun–Jul | Aug–Oct |

Region suitability

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Region</u> | <u>Suitability</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| KE | Highlands | High |
| KE | Highlands & cool mid-altitudes | High |
| KE | Hot lowlands (>28 °C daytime) | Low |
| KE | Waterlogged sites | Low |
| TZ | Northern highlands | High |
| UG | Highland zones | High |

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