FarmLens Ltd

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Crop details

Beetroot

Beta vulgaris

Family: Amaranthaceae

Categories

Vegetables

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Quick stats

Family	Amaranthaceae
Typical harvest	20.0 t/ha
Varieties	1
Pests and diseases	3
Seasons	0

Crop profile

Growth habit	biennial
Days to harvest	70-120
Main uses	Root vegetable
Pollination	wind
Origin and where it grows	Temperate; widely grown

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	12 - 22 °C
Rainfall	400 - 700 mm/yr
Altitude	0 - 2600 m
Best pH	6.2 - 7
Soil type	Loose sandy loam
Row spacing	40 cm
Plant spacing	10 cm
Planting depth	2 cm
Seed rate	6 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 70-120 days after planting.

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

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

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

Best climate: 12 - 22 °C; 400 - 700 mm/yr; up to about 2600 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 6.2 - 7; loose sandy loam.

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

Planting	Direct seed into fine, firm seedbed; thin to spacing for uniform roots.
Transplanting	Transplanting not typical; can cause forked roots.
Irrigation	Maintain consistent moisture; avoid stress during root bulking.
Fertigation	Where drip is used, split N applications lightly through early to mid growth.
Pest scouting	Scout for leaf spots and leaf miners; remove affected leaves; rotate fields.
Pruning and training	Not required.
Harvest	Harvest at desired size before roots become woody; avoid damaging skins.
Postharvest	Shade-cure; store cool and humid; avoid desiccation to maintain firmness.

Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal	0	NPK 12-24-12	90 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	N/A
2	Topdress	30	CAN 26% N	60 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Irrigate after application

Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	40	kg/ha
N	Topdress	20	kg/ha

Field images

Varieties

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
Detroit Dark Red	KE	90	Uniform roots

Fertilizer recommendations

Stage	Product	Rate	Notes

Basal	NPK 12-24-12	90	
Topdress	CAN 26% N	60	Split if soils are light

Pests and diseases

Name	Type	Symptoms	Management
Leaf spot	disease		Rotation; protectants
Leaf miner	pest		Remove mined leaves; monitor; IPM controls
Root maggot	pest		Covers at planting; rotation; sanitation

Yields

System	Typical	Min	Max	Notes
open-field	20	12	35	

Region suitability

Country	Region	Suitability
KE	Highlands	N/A
TZ	Northern highlands	N/A
UG	Southwest highlands	N/A