

## FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

### Lemon

*Citrus limon*

Family: Rutaceae

Categories

Fruits & Nuts

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#### Quick stats

<u>Family</u>	Rutaceae
<u>Typical harvest</u>	17.3 t/ha
<u>Varieties</u>	3
<u>Pests and diseases</u>	9
<u>Seasons</u>	4

#### Crop profile

<u>Growth habit</u>	perennial
<u>Days to harvest</u>	365+
<u>Main uses</u>	Citrus fruit
<u>Pollination</u>	insect
<u>Origin and where it grows</u>	Mediterranean/Asia; tropics/subtropics

#### Weather, soil and spacing

<u>Best temperature</u>	18 - 28 °C
<u>Rainfall</u>	800 - 1200 mm/yr
<u>Altitude</u>	0 - 2000 m
<u>Best pH</u>	6 - 7
<u>Soil type</u>	Well-drained loam/sandy loam
<u>Row spacing</u>	600 cm
<u>Plant spacing</u>	600 cm
<u>Planting depth</u>	60 cm
<u>Seed rate</u>	kg/ha (check local recommendation)
<u>Nursery days</u>	270

#### Simple notes for farmers

**About the crop:** This crop is perennial; once planted it can keep producing for many years. Harvest typically starts about 365+ days after planting.

**Main use:** Farmers mostly grow this crop for citrus fruit.

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

**Where it grows:** Mediterranean/Asia; tropics/subtropics. Grouped under: Fruits & Nuts.

**Best climate:** 18 - 28 °C; 800 - 1200 mm/yr; up to about 2000 m a.s.l.

**Soil:** Best at pH 6 - 7; well-drained loam/sandy loam.

#### Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<b><u>Planting</u></b>	Plant grafted, disease-free seedlings at onset of rains in 60×60×60 cm pits mixed with compost. Keep graft union 15–20 cm above soil. Mulch basins.
<b><u>Transplanting</u></b>	Do not disturb root ball; stake young trees; paint trunks to prevent sunburn.
<b><u>Irrigation</u></b>	Regular moisture critical at flowering and fruit set; irrigate deeply and infrequently; maintain mulch.
<b><u>Fertigation</u></b>	Split N and K into small, frequent doses during active growth; include Ca/Mg where needed.
<b><u>Pest scouting</u></b>	Scout for citrus leaf miner, aphids/psyllids, scales, mites, and fruit flies; monitor for HLB symptoms.
<b><u>Pruning and training</u></b>	Form 3–4 scaffold branches; remove suckers below graft; light annual thinning.
<b><u>Harvest</u></b>	Harvest when fruit is fully sized and color breaks; pick with clip to avoid tearing rinds.
<b><u>Postharvest</u></b>	Handle gently; wash/sanitize; dry and store cool with airflow; avoid ethylene exposure.

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

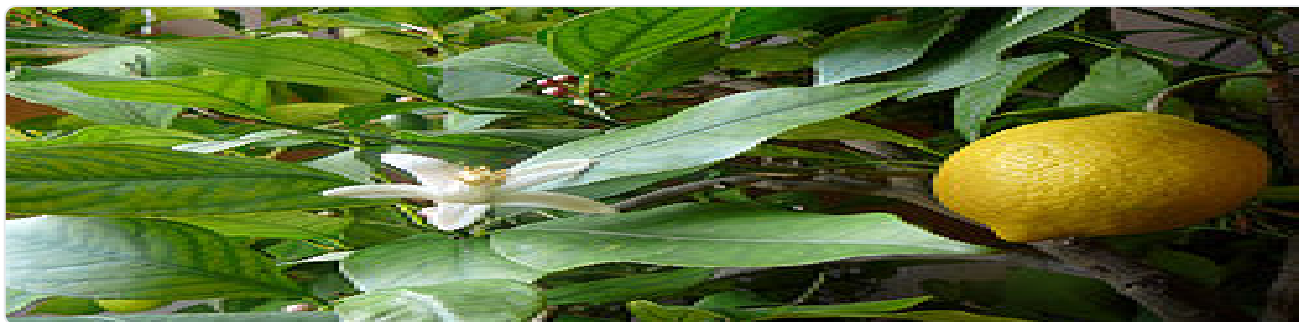
#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Early growth	0	NPK 17-17-17	180 kg/ha	N: 20, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : 20, K <sub>2</sub> O: 20	Mix compost in pit; keep fertilizer away from trunk
2	Fruit set	365	MOP (K <sub>2</sub> O 60%)	120 kg/ha	N: 16, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : N/A, K <sub>2</sub> O: N/A	Ring apply on moist soil; mulch afterwards
3	Flowering / set	180	MOP (KCl) + MAP (12-61-0)	60 kg/ha (K) + 25 kg/ha (P)	N: N/A, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : 15, K <sub>2</sub> O: 40	Avoid heavy N near bloom
4	Fruit fill (fertigation opt.)	240	KNO <sub>3</sub> / CaNO <sub>2</sub> (weekly small doses)	8 kg/ha/week	N: N/A, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : N/A, K <sub>2</sub> O: 40	4–6 weeks micro-doses improve size/peel

### **Nutrient requirements**

<b><u>Nutrient</u></b>	<b><u>Stage</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Unit</u></b>
N	Basal	60	kg/ha
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Basal	40	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Basal	80	kg/ha
N	Topdress	60	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Topdress	60	kg/ha
N	Vegetative	40	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Vegetative	40	kg/ha
N	Flower_set	20	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Flower_set	30	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Fruit_fill	40	kg/ha

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
N	Maintenance	30	kg/ha
P?O?	Maintenance	10	kg/ha
K?O	Maintenance	30	kg/ha

### Field images



### Varieties

<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Maturity (days)</u>	<u>Traits</u>
Eureka	KE	720	Juice; year-round flushes
Lisbon	KE		Vigorous; productive under warm conditions
Ponderosa (home garden)	UG		Large fruits; coarse peel

### Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Basal	Compost/manure (well-decomposed)	5000	Band in basin; keep 20–30 cm off trunk
Vegetative	CAN 26% N	60	Split into 2–3 small doses
Flower/Set	MOP (KCl)	60	Boost K before/after bloom
Fruit fill	Calcium nitrate (optional)	40	Improve peel/firmness

### Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Citrus canker	disease	Leaf/fruit lesions	Sanitation; copper sprays
Citrus leaf miner	pest	Leaf mines; distorted flush	Avoid excessive N; prune infested flush; selective insecticides if severe
Aphids & psyllids	pest	Curling leaves; honeydew/sooty mold; HLB risk	Control ants; use oils/soaps/selective actives; remove symptomatic shoots
Scales & mealybugs	pest	Sooty mold; twig decline	Horticultural oils; prune hot spots; biological control
Citrus mites	pest	Bronzing; russeted rind	Maintain tree vigor; targeted acaricides if needed

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Fruit flies	pest	Stings; larval damage	Protein baiting, field sanitation, traps
Citrus canker / greasy spot	disease	Lesions/leaf spots & defoliation	Sanitation; copper/protectants; airflow
Phytophthora gummosis	disease	Gum exudation; bark rot at collar	Mound soil; improve drainage; trunk paints; resistant rootstocks
Citrus tristeza (CTV)	disease	Decline on susceptible rootstocks	Use tolerant rootstocks; rogue infected trees

## Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
orchard	15	8	25	
rainfed smallholder	12	8	18	Bearing improves after year 4–5
irrigated/managed orchard	25	15	35	Good cultivar, nutrition & pest control

## Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Warm mid-altitudes (long rains planting)	Mar–Apr	Multiple flushes year-round
KE	Warm mid-altitudes (short rains planting)	Oct–Nov	Multiple flushes year-round
UG	Central/Eastern (humid)	Mar–Apr	Staggered harvests
TZ	Coastal & northern (unimodal)	Nov–Dec	Staggered harvests

## Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Coastal; lower & mid-altitudes with irrigation	High
KE	Cool highlands >1900 m (frost risk)	Low
KE	Low to mid-altitudes	High
KE	Poorly drained clays; waterlogged sites	Low
TZ	Coastal; Morogoro; northern valleys	High
UG	Central/Eastern sub-humid	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.