

FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

Guinea Grass

Megathyrsus maximus

Family: Poaceae

Categories

Forages & Fodder

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Quick stats

Family	Poaceae
Typical harvest	24.0 t/ha
Varieties	1
Pests and diseases	2
Seasons	1

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	20 - 34 °C
Rainfall	450 - 750 mm/yr
Altitude	800 - 3000 m
Best pH	6 - 7
Soil type	Well-drained loam to clay loam with moderate fertility.
Row spacing	20 cm
Plant spacing	5 cm
Planting depth	4 cm
Seed rate	80 kg/ha

Crop profile

Growth habit	perennial
Days to harvest	85
Main uses	Cut fodder and grazing pasture for dairy and beef systems.
Pollination	wind
Origin and where it grows	Widespread in warm East African lowland and mid-altitude livestock areas.

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop is perennial; once planted it can keep producing for many years. Harvest typically starts about 85 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for cut fodder and grazing pasture for dairy and beef systems..

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

Where it grows: Widespread in warm East African lowland and mid-altitude livestock areas.. Grouped under: Forages & Fodder.

Best climate: 20 - 34 °C; 450 - 750 mm/yr; up to about 3000 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 6 - 7; well-drained loam to clay loam with moderate fertility..

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<u>Planting</u>	Direct-seed Guinea Grass into a fine firm seedbed at onset of reliable rains.
<u>Transplanting</u>	Not transplanted.
<u>Irrigation</u>	Maintain moisture during establishment and grain filling where irrigation is used.
<u>Fertigation</u>	Split nitrogen between planting and early vegetative growth where moisture allows.
<u>Pest scouting</u>	Scout Guinea Grass for aphids, armyworms, foliar diseases, and lodging risk.
<u>Pruning and training</u>	No pruning needed; keep weeds low during early establishment.
<u>Harvest</u>	Harvest Guinea Grass when grains harden and heads dry down evenly.
<u>Postharvest</u>	Dry grain well before threshing and storage.

Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal	0	DAP	100 kg/ha	N: 18, P?O?: 46, K?O: N/A	Starter fertilizer for Guinea Grass establishment.
2	Topdress	28	CAN	100 kg/ha	N: 26, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Topdress Guinea Grass before rain or irrigation.

Nutrient requirements

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

Field images



Varieties

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
Mombasa	KE	85	High biomass tropical pasture grass.

Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Planting	DAP	100	Basal phosphorus for Guinea Grass establishment.
Topdress	CAN	100	Nitrogen support for Guinea Grass vegetative growth.

Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Aphids	pest	Sap sucking on leaves and grain heads.	Scout early, preserve beneficial insects, and control when thresholds are exceeded.
Leaf rust	disease	Rust pustules on leaves reducing grain fill.	Use tolerant varieties, rotation, and timely disease control.

Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Rainfed smallholder production	24	14.4	40.8	Typical grain yield under practical Guinea Grass management.

Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Highland Grain Zones	Mar-Apr	Jul-Aug

Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Highland Grain Zones	Medium

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