

FarmLens Ltd

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Crop details

Soursop (Annona muricata)

Annona muricata

Family: Annonaceae

Categories

Fruits & Nuts

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Quick stats

Family	Annonaceae
Typical harvest	13.3 t/ha
Varieties	2
Pests and diseases	7
Seasons	3

Crop profile

Growth habit	tree
Days to harvest	perennial
Main uses	Fresh fruit; processing (juice, pulp); medicinal/traditional uses
Pollination	insect
Origin and where it grows	Neotropics; now grown in humid lowland tropics

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	24 - 32 °C
Rainfall	1200 - 2000 mm/yr
Altitude	0 - 1200 m
Best pH	5.5 - 6.5
Soil type	Deep, well-drained loam; high organic matter
Row spacing	600 cm
Plant spacing	600 cm
Seed rate	kg/ha (check local recommendation)

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop has a growth habit described as "tree". Harvest typically starts about perennial days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for fresh fruit; processing (juice, pulp); medicinal/traditional uses.

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

Where it grows: Neotropics; now grown in humid lowland tropics. Grouped under: Fruits & Nuts.

Best climate: 24 - 32 °C; 1200 - 2000 mm/yr; up to about 1200 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 5.5 - 6.5; deep, well-drained loam; high organic matter.

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

<u>Planting</u>	Plant at onset of rains or irrigate; use healthy seedlings/grafts; incorporate compost and starter P.
<u>Transplanting</u>	Stake young trees; mulch; protect from wind; maintain weed-free basins.
<u>Irrigation</u>	Keep evenly moist, especially from flowering to fruit fill; avoid drought to limit fruit drop.
<u>Fertigation</u>	Split N into light feeds; supply K and Ca during fruiting; adjust via soil/leaf tests.
<u>Pest scouting</u>	Scout for fruit flies, mealybugs/scales, anthracnose; prune to open canopy; sanitize fallen fruit.
<u>Pruning and training</u>	Form an open center or modified leader; remove crossing and shaded interior wood.
<u>Harvest</u>	Harvest when spines flatten and fruit turns dull green; handle carefully; climacteric—ripens off tree.
<u>Postharvest</u>	Cool promptly; short shelf life (3–5 days at ambient); store 10–15 °C at high RH; minimize bruising.

Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal at planting	0	Compost + DAP 18-46-0 (light)	5 kg/tree (compost) + 100 g DAP	N: N/A, P?O?: 10, K?O: N/A	Mix in backfill; keep away from stem
2	Vegetative split N	90	CAN 26% N	150 g/tree	N: 10, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Apply in ring under canopy; water in
3	Pre-bloom balanced feed	300	NPK 17-17-17	200 g/tree	N: 10, P?O?: 10, K?O: 10	Light dose before flowering
4	Fruit fill K boost	360	Sulfate of potash (SOP)	250 g/tree	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: 15	Prefer SOP for fruit quality
5	Micronutrient foliar (opt.)	320	Ca/B/Zn foliar (as label)	0 —	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Apply cool hours; supports set/skin

Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	50	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	70	kg/ha
N	Establishment	20	kg/ha
P?O?	Establishment	20	kg/ha
K?O	Establishment	20	kg/ha
N	Vegetative	40	kg/ha
K?O	Vegetative	30	kg/ha

<u>Nutrient</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
N	Flower_set	15	kg/ha
P?O?	Flower_set	20	kg/ha
K?O	Flower_set	30	kg/ha
N	Fruit_fill	10	kg/ha
K?O	Fruit_fill	40	kg/ha
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>
Local Soursop	KE	900	Aromatic pulp
Local soursop selection	TZ	900	Coastal adaptation; good pulp yield

Fertilizer recommendations

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Basal	Compost (well-decomposed)	5000	Mulch rings/basins
Vegetative	CAN 26% N	80	Split 2–3× per year on young trees
Fruit fill	Sulfate of potash (SOP)	60	Boost K for fruit quality

Pests and diseases

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Fruit fly	pest	Maggots in fruit	Baiting; bagging; sanitation
Fruit flies (Tephritidae)	pest	Stings; larval tunnels; fruit drop	Protein baiting, field sanitation, fruit bagging, timely harvest

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Symptoms</u>	<u>Management</u>
Mealybugs & scales	pest	Honeydew; sooty mold; twig decline	Prune for airflow; control ants; oils/soft insecticides; conserve predators
Anthracnose (Colletotrichum)	disease	Leaf/fruit lesions; postharvest decay	Open canopy; protectants in wet periods; careful handling
Phytophthora root/collar rot	disease	Cankers; wilting; tree decline	Excellent drainage; avoid trunk wetting; phosphonates if needed
Fruit borers (Lepidoptera)	pest	Bored fruit; frass	Field sanitation; bagging; targeted control
Root-knot nematodes	pest	Galled roots; stunting	Organic matter; rotations/cover crops; tolerant rootstocks where available

Yields

<u>System</u>	<u>Typical</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Max</u>	<u>Notes</u>
orchard	12	6	20	
smallholder rainfed	10	6	15	Mature orchards; 40–60 kg/tree typical where well managed
irrigated/intensive	18	12	25	Improved cultivars, nutrition, and pruning

Season calendars

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Planting</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
KE	Coastal lowlands	Mar–Apr	Aug–Dec
KE	Coastal lowlands (alt)	Oct–Nov	Mar–Jun
TZ	Coastal belt	Mar–Apr	Aug–Dec

Region suitability

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Coastal lowlands	High
KE	Cool highlands (>1500 m)	Low
KE	Frost-prone uplands	Low
TZ	Coastal belt & islands	High
UG	Warm lowlands (lake shore)	Medium

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