FarmLens Ltd

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

Crop details

Loquat

Eriobotrya japonica

Family: Rosaceae

Categories

Fruits & Nuts

Generated: 2025-12-14 11:33

Quick stats

Family	Rosaceae
Typical harvest	13.3 t/ha
Varieties	4
Pests and diseases	7
Seasons	3

Crop profile

Growth habit	perennial
Days to harvest	365+
Main uses	Fruit (fresh)
Pollination	insect
Origin and where it grows	E Asia; highlands/tropics

Weather, soil and spacing

Best temperature	10 - 20 °C
Rainfall	700 - 1200 mm/yr
Altitude	1200 - 2600 m
Best pH	6 - 6.8
Soil type	Well-drained loam
Row spacing	600 cm
Plant spacing	600 cm
Planting depth	60 cm
Seed rate	kg/ha (check local recommendation)

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 fruit (fresh).

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

Where it grows: E Asia; highlands/tropics. Grouped under: Fruits & Nuts.

Best climate: 10 - 20 °C; 700 - 1200 mm/yr; up to about 2600 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 6 - 6.8; well-drained loam.

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

Planting	Plant at onset of rains or with irrigation. Use grafted cultivars on well-drained sites. Incorporate compost and a starter P source.
Transplanting	Stake young trees; mulch; protect from wind and frost during establishment.
Irrigation	Keep evenly moist, especially from flowering through fruit fill. Reduce stress to limit fruit drop and cracking.
Fertigation	Split N into several light feeds; supply K and Ca during fruiting; use leaf/soil analysis to refine.
Pest scouting	Scout for fruit flies, scales, aphids, scab, sooty mold; bag fruit or use bait/traps as needed.
Pruning and training	Open center/modified leader; thin crowded shoots after harvest to improve light and reduce disease.
Harvest	Harvest when fully colored (yellow-orange) and slightly soft. Handle gently to avoid bruising.
Postharvest	Cool quickly; store 5–10 °C at high RH; short shelf life—market promptly.

Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Basal	0	NPK 15-15-15	120 kg/ha	N: N/A, P?O?: 10, K?O: N/A	Mix well into backfill; avoid root burn
2	Vegetative split N	60	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 feed	240	NPK 17-17-17	200 g/tree	N: 10, P?O?: 10, K?O: 10	Light, balanced dose before flowering
4	Fruit fill K boost	300	MOP (KCl) or SOP (preferred)	200 g/tree	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: 15	SOP preferred on chloride-sensitive sites
5	Micronutrient foliar (opt.)	270	Ca/B/Zn foliar (as label)	0 —	N: N/A, P?O?: N/A, K?O: N/A	Apply during cool hours; improves set/skin

Nutrient requirements

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	40	kg/ha
P?O?	Basal	30	kg/ha
K?O	Basal	60	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

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
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

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
Local Loquat	KE	900	Highland adapted
Mogi	KE	240	Early; sweet; medium fruit
Tanaka	KE	270	Large fruit; good flavor
Advance	TZ	260	Early to mid-season; productive

Fertilizer recommendations

Stage	Product	Rate	Notes
Basal	Compost (well-decomposed)	5000	Applied in basins/mulch rings
Vegetative	CAN 26% N	80	Split 2–3 times per year
Fruit fill	Sulfate of potash (SOP)	60	Prefer SOP over MOP for fruit quality

Pests and diseases

Name	Type	Symptoms	Management
Fruit moths	pest	Fruit damage	Bagging; pheromone traps

Name	Type	Symptoms	Management
Fruit flies (Tephritidae)	pest	Sting marks; larval tunnels; fruit drop	Protein baiting, field sanitation, fruit bagging, harvest on time
Scale insects	pest	Sooty mold from honeydew; weakening twigs	Prune for airflow; conserve predators; oil sprays
Aphids	pest	Curling leaves; honeydew/sooty mold	Control ants; soft insecticides if needed
Loquat scab	disease	Olive/brown lesions on fruit/leaves	Prune to open canopy; protectants during wet spells
Blossom blight	disease	Brown flowers; poor set in wet/cool periods	Airflow, canopy thinning; fungicide if persistent
Bird damage	pest	Pecked fruit; losses at maturity	Netting, scare tactics, selective harvest

Yields

System	Typical	Min	Max	Notes
orchard	12	6	20	
smallholder rainfed	10	6	15	Bearing orchards; 20–40 kg/tree
irrigated/intensive	18	12	25	Good cultivars and nutrition

Season calendars

Country	Region	Planting	Harvest
KE	Highlands	Mar–Apr	Feb–Apr
KE	Highlands (alt)	Oct–Nov	Jun–Aug
ET	Highland tropics	Jun–Jul	Feb–Apr

Region suitability

Country	Region	Suitability
KE	Frost-prone valleys (bloom)	Low
KE	Highlands	High
KE	Highlands & cool mid-altitudes	High
KE	Hot lowlands (>28 °C)	Low
TZ	Northern highlands	High
UG	Highland slopes	High