

# FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

## Napier grass

*Cenchrus purpureus* (syn. *Pennisetum purpureum*)

Family: Poaceae

Categories

Forages & Fodder

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### Quick stats

<b>Family</b>	Poaceae
<b>Typical harvest</b>	80.0 t/ha
<b>Varieties</b>	1
<b>Pests and diseases</b>	1
<b>Seasons</b>	0

### Crop profile

<b>Growth habit</b>	perennial
<b>Days to harvest</b>	120-365+
<b>Main uses</b>	Forage (cut-and-carry)
<b>Pollination</b>	wind
<b>Origin and where it grows</b>	Africa; tropics

### Weather, soil and spacing

<b>Best temperature</b>	20 - 30 °C
<b>Rainfall</b>	1000 - 2000 mm/yr
<b>Altitude</b>	0 - 2000 m
<b>Best pH</b>	5.5 - 6.8
<b>Soil type</b>	Fertile loams; tolerates many soils
<b>Row spacing</b>	100 cm
<b>Plant spacing</b>	50 cm
<b>Planting depth</b>	5 cm
<b>Seed rate</b>	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 120-365+ days after planting.

**Main use:** Farmers mostly grow this crop for forage (cut-and-carry).

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

**Where it grows:** Africa; tropics. Grouped under: Forages & Fodder.

**Best climate:** 20 - 30 °C; 1000 - 2000 mm/yr; up to about 2000 m a.s.l.

**Soil:** Best at pH 5.5 - 6.8; fertile loams; tolerates many soils.

### Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

**Planting**

Plant canes/splits; harvest every 6–8 weeks at 1–1.5 m height.

**Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)**

#	Stage	DAP	Product	Rate	Targets (kg/ha)	Notes
1	Establishment	0	NPK 17-17-17	150 kg/ha	N: N/A, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : N/A, K <sub>2</sub> O: N/A	N/A
2	After first cut	60	Urea	100 kg/ha	N: N/A, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> : N/A, K <sub>2</sub> O: N/A	N/A

**Nutrient requirements**

Nutrient	Stage	Amount	Unit
N	Basal	60	kg/ha
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	Basal	40	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Basal	60	kg/ha
N	Topdress	60	kg/ha
K <sub>2</sub> O	Topdress	40	kg/ha

**Field images****Varieties**

Name	Country	Maturity (days)	Traits
Kakamega 1	KE	180	High biomass; disease tolerant

**Pests and diseases**

Name	Type	Symptoms	Management
Napier stunt	disease	Stunting; yellowing	Rogue infected clumps; clean planting material

**Yields**

System	Typical	Min	Max	Notes
cut-and-carry	80	40	120	Fresh biomass/year

**Region suitability**

<u>Country</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Suitability</u>
KE	Dairy belts	High

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