

FarmLens Ltd

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



Crop details

Capsicum / Bell pepper (hoho)

Capsicum annuum

Family: Solanaceae

Categories

Vegetables

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Quick stats

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| <u>Family</u> | Solanaceae |
| <u>Typical harvest</u> | 31.0 t/ha |
| <u>Varieties</u> | 3 |
| <u>Pests and diseases</u> | 7 |
| <u>Seasons</u> | 0 |

Crop profile

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <u>Growth habit</u> | annual |
| <u>Days to harvest</u> | 130 |
| <u>Main uses</u> | Fresh green and coloured fruits of hoho used for cooking, salads, stuffing and seasoning. |
| <u>Pollination</u> | self |
| <u>Origin and where it grows</u> | Capsicum / Bell pepper (hoho) is widely grown in irrigated and rainfed vegetable areas in East Africa, especially near towns and irrigation schemes. |

Weather, soil and spacing

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| <u>Best temperature</u> | 18 - 28 °C |
| <u>Rainfall</u> | 700 - 1000 mm/yr |
| <u>Altitude</u> | 0 - 2200 m |
| <u>Best pH</u> | 6 - 6.8 |
| <u>Soil type</u> | Deep, well-drained loam or sandy loam with plenty of organic matter. Capsicum / Bell pepper (hoho) prefers fertile, well-structured soils. |
| <u>Row spacing</u> | 75 cm |
| <u>Plant spacing</u> | 40 cm |
| <u>Planting depth</u> | 1.5 cm |
| <u>Seed rate</u> | 0.4 kg/ha |
| <u>Nursery days</u> | 35 |

Simple notes for farmers

About the crop: This crop is annual; it grows and is harvested in one season. Harvest typically starts about 130 days after planting.

Main use: Farmers mostly grow this crop for fresh green and coloured fruits of hoho used for cooking, salads, stuffing and seasoning..

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

Where it grows: Capsicum / Bell pepper (hoho) is widely grown in irrigated and rainfed vegetable areas in East Africa, especially near towns and irrigation schemes.. Grouped under: Vegetables.

Best climate: 18 - 28 °C; 700 - 1000 mm/yr; up to about 2200 m a.s.l.

Soil: Best at pH 6 - 6.8; deep, well-drained loam or sandy loam with plenty of organic matter. capsicum / bell pepper (hoho) prefers fertile, well-structured soils..

Farmer guide (Mwongozo wa Mkulima)

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <u>Planting</u> | Raise Capsicum / Bell pepper (hoho) seedlings in a nursery bed or trays using fine soil and compost. Keep moist and protect from heavy rain and strong sun. Transplant healthy seedlings with 4–6 true leaves into the field on cool, cloudy days or in the late afternoon. |
| <u>Transplanting</u> | Water nursery before lifting seedlings. Transplant with a small ball of soil around roots and firm soil gently around each plant. Avoid burying the stem too deep. |
| <u>Irrigation</u> | Keep soil evenly moist but not waterlogged, especially during flowering and fruit filling. Avoid long dry spells followed by heavy irrigation as this can cause flower and fruit drop. |
| <u>Fertigation</u> | With drip irrigation, feed small doses of NPK frequently. Increase potassium and calcium around fruiting to get firm, good quality hoho fruits and to reduce blossom-end rot. |
| <u>Pest scouting</u> | Inspect weekly for aphids, whiteflies, mites, thrips, fruit borers and diseases. Check the underside of leaves, flowers and young fruits of hoho for insects and spots. |
| <u>Pruning and training</u> | Stake and tie Capsicum / Bell pepper (hoho) plants where possible. Remove dead, diseased and very low branches to improve airflow and make harvesting easier. |
| <u>Harvest</u> | Harvest green hoho when fruits are full-sized, firm and shiny. For coloured peppers, leave fruits to turn red, yellow or orange depending on variety, but harvest before they become over-soft. |
| <u>Postharvest</u> | Handle fruits of hoho gently, avoid squeezing and dropping. Harvest into clean crates, keep in shade, and store in a cool, well-ventilated room to delay shrivelling and rots. |

Nutrient schedule (Mbolea kwa Hatua)

| # | <u>Stage</u> | <u>DAP</u> | <u>Product</u> | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Targets (kg/ha)</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---|--|
| 1 | Basal at transplanting | 0 | NPK 17-17-17 or 15-15-15 | 250 kg/ha | N: 42, P ₂ O ₅ : 42, K ₂ O: 42 | Band fertilizer 5–8 cm away from hoho seedlings and cover with soil. |
| 2 | Early topdress | 21 | CAN 26% N | 100 kg/ha | N: 26, P ₂ O ₅ : 0, K ₂ O: 0 | Apply between rows of hoho when soil is moist; irrigate or lightly incorporate. |
| 3 | Fruiting topdress (N + K) | 40 | NPK 12-6-24 or urea + SOP/MOP | 150 kg/ha | N: 18, P ₂ O ₅ : 9, K ₂ O: 36 | Supports fruit set and filling in Capsicum / Bell pepper (hoho); avoid too much late nitrogen. |

Nutrient requirements

| <u>Nutrient</u> | <u>Stage</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Unit</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| N | Basal | 50 | kg/ha |
| P ₂ O ₅ | Basal | 60 | kg/ha |
| K ₂ O | Basal | 60 | kg/ha |

| <u>Nutrient</u> | <u>Stage</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Unit</u> |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------|
| N | Topdress_early | 40 | kg/ha |
| P?O? | Topdress_early | 0 | kg/ha |
| K?O | Topdress_early | 30 | kg/ha |
| N | Topdress_fruiting | 30 | kg/ha |
| P?O? | Topdress_fruiting | 0 | kg/ha |
| K?O | Topdress_fruiting | 60 | kg/ha |

Field images



Varieties

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Country</u> | <u>Maturity (days)</u> | <u>Traits</u> |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|---|
| Hybrid blocky hoho (green/red) | KE | 120 | Large blocky fruits, thick walls, good yield and market value. |
| Coloured hoho hybrid (yellow/orange) | KE | 130 | Attractive coloured fruits, good for high-value markets. |
| Local hoho type | KE | 110 | Traditional taste, smaller fruits and lower yield than hybrids. |

Fertilizer recommendations

| <u>Stage</u> | <u>Product</u> | <u>Rate</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|---------------------|--|-------------|---|
| Basal | NPK 17-17-17 or 15-15-15 | 250 | Gives balanced nutrients for early hoho growth. |
| Topdress (N source) | CAN 26% N or urea | 100 | Apply once or twice during vegetative growth of Capsicum / Bell pepper (hoho). |
| Topdress (K source) | Sulfate of potash (SOP) or high-K NPK | 100 | Improves fruit size, firmness and colour of hoho. |
| Organic | Well-rotted farmyard manure or compost | 8000 | Apply before transplanting to improve soil structure, moisture holding and biological activity. |

Pests and diseases

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Type</u> | <u>Symptoms</u> | <u>Management</u> |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|--|
| Aphids | pest | | Encourage natural enemies, remove heavily infested shoots and use selective insecticides or biopesticides when populations rise. |

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Type</u> | <u>Symptoms</u> | <u>Management</u> |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|---|
| Whiteflies | pest | | Use yellow sticky traps, remove severely affected plants, and apply selective products when necessary. |
| Thrips | pest | | Reduce weeds, use blue or yellow sticky traps and apply targeted insecticides/biopesticides based on scouting. |
| Fruit borer / bollworm | pest | | Collect and destroy infested fruits, use pheromone traps where available and apply recommended insecticides early. |
| Bacterial leaf spot | disease | | Use clean seed, avoid working in fields when wet, rotate crops and use copper-based protectants where pressure is high. |
| Powdery and downy mildews | disease | | Keep canopies open, avoid overhead irrigation in the evening and apply appropriate fungicides when needed. |
| Viral diseases (mosaic, leaf curl) | disease | | Use healthy seed/seedlings, control aphids and whiteflies and rogue out severely affected plants early. |

Yields

| <u>System</u> | <u>Typical</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>Max</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|------------|------------|--|
| Open-field hoho, low input | 8 | 5 | 12 | Local or open-pollinated varieties, little fertilizer and limited pest control. |
| Open-field hoho, improved management | 25 | 15 | 35 | Hybrid seed, staking where needed, recommended fertilizer and regular pest and disease management. |
| Irrigated net-house / greenhouse hoho | 60 | 40 | 80 | Protected cultivation, high-performing hybrids, drip and fertigation, and strong crop protection. |

Region suitability

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Region</u> | <u>Suitability</u> |
|----------------|---|--------------------|
| KE | Irrigation schemes and river valleys | N/A |
| KE | Peri-urban vegetable belts around major towns | N/A |
| KE | Very hot, dry lowlands without irrigation | N/A |
| TZ | Central and northern hoho producing areas | N/A |
| UG | Mid-altitude vegetable-growing zones | N/A |

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