

MAY 2022

# NULANDS NEWSLETTER

*Transforming land. Creating possibilities*



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# SHORT GUIDE TO SUCCESSFUL DRAGON FRUIT FARMING



Dragon fruit is a tropical fruit that has become very popular in recent years. Many farmers cultivate dragon fruit in a big way because of its taste, medicinal value, and demand in the fruit market.

The dragon fruit plant is a climbing large cactus plant that grows tall with succulent-like thick branches and produces bright red or yellow fruit. The fruit of the dragon fruit plant, also called Pitaya is dense, juicy, and sweet.

Dragon fruit flower also produces the most giant flowers in the world, often referred to as “night-blooming cereus,” which bloom as gorgeous white flowers for only one night and fill the air with a unique tropical scent.

Dragon fruit grows well in poor soils but is best suited to tropical climates with 40–60 cm rainfall for growth. The temperature between 20°C to 30°C is considered best for growing dragon fruit crops. If your climate outside is too cold or too hot for dragon fruit, you can also successfully grow a potted dragon fruit plant.

Although dragon fruit is in the cactus family, it is not like the cacti you typically see in the desert. Dragon fruit is a subtropical cactus native to Central America and South America, which means it thrives in mild, humid environments.

So why would it be wise to invest in dragon fruit farming in Kenya now? Here are the reasons:

## 1. Easy to grow

New plants are grown from cuttings obtained from a mature vine, kept under a shade to dry off their tips for about a week, and then planted by burying the lower end into the soil for about 1 inch.

In about two weeks, the cuttings start developing roots then new shoots appear in about a month. Also, you can buy already rooted and sprouting dragon fruit seedlings which take nine months to 1 year to start producing fruits.

Being in the cactus family, dragon fruit plants do not need a lot of water because they are best in sandy or well-drained loamy soils. After plantation, they will need very little attention other than the occasional application of manure and pruning. They are less susceptible to pests and diseases, therefore, the burden of spraying them regularly will be limited.



## 2. High returns on investment

The dragon fruit plants are vines with a production period of up to 30 years. So you will need to support them with posts that can last as long. Each vine can grow up to 30 feet long and give you 30 to 100 fruits per year upon maturity. Now you can see what that means in terms of returns given the current prices.



The demand for these fruits is very high in Kenya. Anyone who has tasted this fruit likes it. The only limiting factor at the moment is the high price. So if you have a high production capacity, you can reach a broad market by reducing your cost and still make a kill. Do not forget that the export market in China, the Middle East, and Europe is offering very high prices for dragon fruit. These markets prefer the high-quality fruits grown in our hot tropical climate to the less tasty fruits from sub-tropical regions.

### 3. Require a small space

Dragon fruit vines are mostly planted in groups supported by one post. On each post, you can plant four vines. The ideal spacing is 1m from one group to the next and 2m between the rows. With this kind of spacing, you can fit 1,000 dragon fruit plants on a plot 50 by 100. There is enough to help you realize an advantage economic return.

Since the vines do not have deep roots, some farmers even plant them in pots in their backyard gardens. It is an ideal method to grow dragon fruits for your own consumption even if you live in a rented house in which you only have a balcony.



### So how do I start a dragon fruit farm in Kenya?

If you have a plot of land, anything from a 50 by 100 or bigger acreage, you can start this commercial farming. Dragon fruits grow well in areas with temperatures of 15°C and above. They also like full-day sunshine, therefore, ensure that you do not plant them under trees.

Have your land cleared and set up the support structures that will hold your plants. These structures are made with secure posts of about 5 feet and an old tyre mounted on each. Other farmers construct a square wooden structure on the poles. These are the structures over which the vines will hang.



**Nulands Dragon fruit poles production site**

Prepare the base area of each post to have fine soil. Mix the soil with manure: chicken manure is the best for growing Pitaya. Plant your seedlings here and make sure not to cover too much of the stem to avoid rotting. Use strings to train the vines onto the post. If, the weather becomes too hot and dry, water your plants for faster growth. Wait to start harvesting the precious fruit in about a year.

If you would like to get more information on dragon fruit farming, email us at [customer@nulands.co.ke](mailto:customer@nulands.co.ke).



# AVAILABLE PROPERTIES



(i) Juja phase 4 gated neighbourhood



(ii) Naivasha phase 4 gated neighbourhood



(iii) Isinya phase 4 gated neighbourhood



(iv) Kitengela gated neighbourhood



(v) a. Narok gated neighbourhood



(vi) b. Narok gated farmlands

## EVENTS

On **Saturday 14th May 2022**, we had a bus tour to our **Juja Phase IV & V** property which turned out positively thanks to our loyal clients. Our next bus tour will be to **Isinya & Kitengela** on **Saturday 28th of May 2022**. Be on the lookout for the tours don't be left behind. We bring about new and exciting adventures as we explore investment-worthy markets in Nairobi and other towns.



# NEWS UPDATE

Great news!

We have launched Juja Phase 5 (50 x 100) going for Ksh.800,000 inclusive of title processing. Don't miss the chance to be a landowner at an affordable price. Contact us to book a plot or a seat for viewing on 0708592177 / 0740212121.

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## JUJA PHASE FIVE

**KES 800,000**

**NOW SELLING!**

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THE NULANDS TEAM**

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