WHAT TO GROW IN

Brooklands

City of Cape Town, Western Cape · Western Cape (Winter Rain)

-34.1729, 18.4007 · 226 m above sea level

Western Cape (Winter Rain) climate: most rain falls in winter, so summer crops need irrigation (about 1017 mm a year). Frost is rare or absent, so tender plants can grow year-round. Soils here are typically slightly acidic (pH 6.4) and sandy loam.

At a glance

RAINFALL
1,017 mm
Winter rainfall

AVERAGE
16.3 °C
Mediterranean (warm summer)

FROST
Frost-free
tender plants all year

SOIL
pH 6.4
Sandy loam

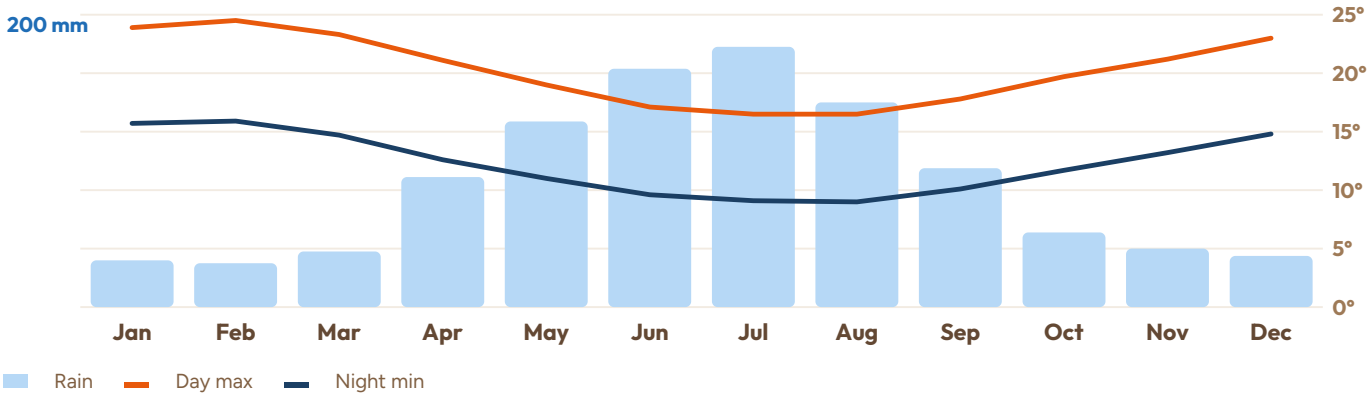
GROWING ZONE
Western Cape (Winter Rain)
Köppen Csb

SUMMER / WINTER
24.5° / 9°
summer days / winter nights

WINTER CHILL
33 portions
Moderate

HARDINESS ZONE
11a
coldest night about 5.4 °C

Climate through the year



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Day max (°C)	23.9	24.5	23.3	21.1	19	17.1	16.5	16.5	17.8	19.7	21.2	23
Night min (°C)	15.7	15.9	14.7	12.6	11	9.6	9.1	9	10.1	11.7	13.2	14.8
Average (°C)	19.8	20.2	18.9	16.8	15	13.3	12.8	12.8	13.9	15.7	17.2	18.9
Rain (mm)	32	30	38	89	127	163	178	140	95	51	40	35
Humidity (%)	64	64	63	62	61	60	60	61	62	61	63	64
Frost chance	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

Frost & chill

Frost	**Rare or absent**
Typical coldest night	**5.4 °C**
Hardiness zone	**11a**
Winter chill	**33 portions · 423 units**

Moderate - most stone fruit and low-chill apples

Soil & terrain

pH (water)	**6.4 · Slightly acidic**
Texture	**Sandy loam**
Organic matter	**High**
Drainage	**Well**
Water held (top 60 cm)	**51 mm**
Soil group	**Arenosols**
Elevation	**226 m**
Slope	**5.1°**

Light and easy to dig; drains well. Great for root crops - add compost.

Modelled typical soil for this ~1 km² area (SoilGrids). Your own garden can differ - a simple soil test is always worth it.

What to plant, season by season

Every crop FarmBoss rates Excellent, Good or With care for this spot, listed under the months to plant it out or sow it in place. Seedlings are sown in trays a few weeks earlier (shown in brackets). Effort runs from 1 (very easy) to 5 (expert).

Any time of year · all year 37 crops

CROP	RATING	EFFORT	HOW	WHEN	WATCH OUT
Vegetables					
Chicory (radicchio, witloof)	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	All year	
Kale	Excellent	2 · Easy	Seedlings (sow in trays All year)	All year	
Herbs					
Chamomile (German)	Excellent	1 · Very easy	Sow in place	All year	
Dill	Excellent	1 · Very easy	Sow in place	All year	
Mint	Excellent	1 · Very easy	Plant from a pot	All year	
Rocket	Excellent	1 · Very easy	Sow in place	All year	
Chives	Excellent	1 · Very easy	Plant from a pot	All year	
Lemon balm	Excellent	1 · Very easy	Plant from a pot	All year	
Oregano	Excellent	1 · Very easy	Plant from a pot	All year	
Rosemary	Excellent	1 · Very easy	Plant from a pot	All year	
Lavender	Excellent	2 · Easy	Plant from a pot	All year	
Rose geranium	Excellent	2 · Easy	Plant cuttings	All year	
Thyme	Excellent	1 · Very easy	Plant from a pot	All year	
Sage	Excellent	1 · Very easy	Plant from a pot	All year	
Coriander (dhania)	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	All year	

CROP	RATING	EFFORT	HOW	WHEN	WATCH OUT
Tea	Good	5 · Expert	Plant cuttings	All year	Typical soil pH here is 6.4; tea prefers 4.5-5.5. Add compost and sulphur to lower it.
Fruit Trees					
Macadamia	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Plant a grafted tree	All year	
Mulberry	Excellent	1 · Very easy	Plant from a pot	All year	
Lemon	Excellent	2 · Easy	Plant a grafted tree	All year	
Naartjie	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Plant a grafted tree	All year	
Persimmon (sharon fruit)	Excellent	2 · Easy	Plant a grafted tree	All year	
Olive	Excellent	2 · Easy	Plant from a pot	All year	
Pomegranate	Excellent	2 · Easy	Plant cuttings	All year	
Orange (citrus)	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Plant a grafted tree	All year	
Lime	Good	2 · Easy	Plant a grafted tree	All year	Average temperature of 16.3 °C is on the cool side for lime
Coffee	Good	4 · Challenging	Plant from a pot	All year	About 1017 mm of rain a year; coffee needs roughly 1300 mm or more - plan to water regular…
Avocado	With care	4 · Challenging	Plant a grafted tree	All year	Average temperature of 16.3 °C is too cool for avocado
Berries & Vines					
Blueberry	Good	5 · Expert	Plant from a pot	All year	Typical soil pH here is 6.4, far above the 4.2-5.2 that blueberry needs. Grow it in a rais…
Granadilla (passion fruit)	With care	3 · Moderate	Plant from a pot	All year	Average temperature of 16.3 °C is too cool for granadilla (passion fruit)
Indigenous & African Crops					
Kei apple	Excellent	1 · Very easy	Plant from a pot	All year	
Wild garlic	Excellent	1 · Very easy	Plant from a pot	All year	
Num-num (amatungula)	Good	1 · Very easy	Plant from a pot	All year	Average temperature of 16.3 °C is on the cool side for num-num (amatungula)
Sour plum (Ximenia)	Good	2 · Easy	Plant from a pot	All year	Average temperature of 16.3 °C is on the cool side for sour plum (ximenia)
Wild medlar	Good	1 · Very easy	Plant from a pot	All year	Average temperature of 16.3 °C is on the cool side for wild medlar
Marama bean	Good	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	All year	Average temperature of 16.3 °C is on the cool side for marama bean
Mobola plum	With care	3 · Moderate	Plant from a pot	All year	Average temperature of 16.3 °C is too cool for mobola plum
Wild plum (umgwenya)	With care	2 · Easy	Plant from a pot	All year	Average temperature of 16.3 °C is too cool for wild plum (umgwenya)

Spring · Sep–Nov 41 crops

CROP	RATING	EFFORT	HOW	WHEN	WATCH OUT
Vegetables					
Beetroot	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Sep–Nov	
Carrot	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Sep–Nov	
Celery	Excellent	4 · Challenging	Seedlings (sow in trays Jul–Sep)	Sep–Nov	
Lettuce	Excellent	2 · Easy	Seedlings (sow in trays Aug–Oct)	Sep–Nov	
Parsnip	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Sep–Oct	
Radish	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Sep–Oct	
Swiss chard (spinach)	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Sep	
Turnip	Excellent	1 · Very easy	Sow in place	Sep–Nov	
Green beans (bush)	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Oct–Nov	
Sweetcorn (green mealies)	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Sep–Nov	
Gem squash	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Oct–Nov	
Muskmelon (spanspek)	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Sep–Nov	
Pumpkin	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Oct–Nov	
Cucumber	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Oct–Nov	
Tomato	Excellent	4 · Challenging	Seedlings (sow in trays Sep)	Oct	
Baby marrow (courgette)	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Oct–Nov	
Sweet pepper	Excellent	4 · Challenging	Seedlings (sow in trays Sep–Oct)	Nov	
Butternut	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Oct–Nov	
Chilli	Good	3 · Moderate	Seedlings (sow in trays Sep)	Nov	Too cold for much of the growing period
Sweet potato	Good	2 · Easy	Plant cuttings	Nov	Too cold for much of the growing period
Herbs					
Parsley	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Sep–Nov	
Basil	Excellent	2 · Easy	Seedlings (sow in trays Sep–Oct)	Oct–Nov	
Fruit Trees					
Grapefruit	With care	3 · Moderate	Plant a grafted tree	Sep–Nov	Average temperature of 16.3 °C is too cool for grapefruit
Berries & Vines					
Cape gooseberry	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Seedlings (sow in trays Jul–Sep)	Sep–Nov	
Field Crops					
Potato	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Plant tubers	Sep	
Sunflower	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Oct–Nov	
Dry beans	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Oct–Nov	

CROP	RATING	EFFORT	HOW	WHEN	WATCH OUT
Pigeon pea	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Nov	
Soybean	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Oct–Nov	
Maize	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Oct–Nov	
Oats	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Sep	
Sorghum	Good	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Oct–Nov	Too cold for much of the growing period
Pearl millet (babala)	Good	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Nov	Too cold for much of the growing period
Indigenous & African Crops					
Spider plant (morogo)	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Nov	
Black nightshade (umsobo)	Excellent	2 · Easy	Seedlings (sow in trays Oct)	Nov	
Wild cucumber	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Nov	
Cowpea	Good	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Nov	Too cold for much of the growing period
Bambara groundnut	Good	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Nov	Too cold for much of the growing period
Bottle gourd (calabash)	Good	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Nov	Too cold for much of the growing period
Buchu (round-leaf)	Good	5 · Expert	Plant from a pot	Sep–Oct	Typical soil pH here is 6.4, far above the 3.5-4.5 that buchu (round-leaf) needs. Grow it...
Honeybush	Good	5 · Expert	Plant from a pot	Sep–Oct	Typical soil pH here is 6.4, far above the 4.0-5.0 that honeybush needs. Grow it in a rais...

Summer · Dec–Feb 41 crops

CROP	RATING	EFFORT	HOW	WHEN	WATCH OUT
Vegetables					
Beetroot	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Dec–Feb	
Broccoli	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Seedlings (sow in trays Dec–Jan)	Jan–Feb	
Brussels sprouts	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Seedlings (sow in trays Dec–Jan)	Feb	
Cabbage	Excellent	2 · Easy	Seedlings (sow in trays Nov–Jan)	Dec–Feb	
Carrot	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Jan–Feb	
Celery	Excellent	4 · Challenging	Seedlings (sow in trays Oct)	Dec	
Kohlrabi	Excellent	1 · Very easy	Seedlings (sow in trays Jan)	Feb	
Lettuce	Excellent	2 · Easy	Seedlings (sow in trays Nov–Jan)	Dec–Feb	
Cauliflower	Excellent	4 · Challenging	Seedlings (sow in trays Nov–Jan)	Dec–Feb	
Green beans (bush)	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Dec–Feb	
Sweetcorn (green mealies)	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Dec	

CROP	RATING	EFFORT	HOW	WHEN	WATCH OUT
Gem squash	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Dec–Jan	
Muskmelon (spanspek)	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Dec	
Baby marrow (courgette)	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Dec–Jan	
Sweet pepper	Excellent	4 · Challenging	Seedlings (sow in trays Oct–Nov)	Dec	
Butternut	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Dec–Jan	
Chilli	Good	3 · Moderate	Seedlings (sow in trays Oct)	Dec	Too cold for much of the growing period
Sweet potato	Good	2 · Easy	Plant cuttings	Dec	Too cold for much of the growing period
Brinjal (eggplant)	Good	4 · Challenging	Seedlings (sow in trays Oct)	Dec	Too cold for much of the growing period
Herbs					
Basil	Excellent	2 · Easy	Seedlings (sow in trays Nov–Jan)	Dec–Feb	
Fruit Trees					
Grapefruit	With care	3 · Moderate	Plant a grafted tree	Dec–Feb	Average temperature of 16.3 °C is too cool for grapefruit
Berries & Vines					
Cape gooseberry	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Seedlings (sow in trays Oct–Nov)	Dec–Jan	
Field Crops					
Potato	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Plant tubers	Jan–Feb	
Sunflower	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Dec–Jan	
Dry beans	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Dec–Feb	
Pigeon pea	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Dec	
Mung bean	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Dec–Jan	
Soybean	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Dec–Jan	
Maize	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Dec	
Oats	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Feb	
Sorghum	Good	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Dec–Jan	Too cold for much of the growing period
Pearl millet (babala)	Good	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Dec	Too cold for much of the growing period
Indigenous & African Crops					
Spider plant (morogo)	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Dec–Feb	
Black nightshade (umsobo)	Excellent	2 · Easy	Seedlings (sow in trays Nov–Jan)	Dec–Feb	
Amaranth (morogo / imbuya)	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Dec–Jan	
Blackjack (umhlabangubo)	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Dec–Jan	

CROP	RATING	EFFORT	HOW	WHEN	WATCH OUT
Jew's mallow (thelele)	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Dec–Jan	
Wild cucumber	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Dec–Jan	
Cowpea	Good	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Dec–Jan	Too cold for much of the growing period
Bambara groundnut	Good	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Dec	Too cold for much of the growing period
Bottle gourd (calabash)	Good	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Dec	Too cold for much of the growing period

Autumn · Mar–May 27 crops

CROP	RATING	EFFORT	HOW	WHEN	WATCH OUT
Vegetables					
Beetroot	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Mar	
Broad bean	Excellent	1 · Very easy	Sow in place	Apr–May	
Brussels sprouts	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Seedlings (sow in trays Jan–Feb)	Mar	
Cabbage	Excellent	2 · Easy	Seedlings (sow in trays Feb–Apr)	Mar–May	
Carrot	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Mar–Apr	
Celery	Excellent	4 · Challenging	Seedlings (sow in trays Feb–Mar)	Apr–May	
Garlic	Excellent	2 · Easy	Plant bulbs or cloves	Mar–May	
Kohlrabi	Excellent	1 · Very easy	Seedlings (sow in trays Feb–Mar)	Mar–Apr	
Leek	Excellent	2 · Easy	Seedlings (sow in trays Mar)	May	
Lettuce	Excellent	2 · Easy	Seedlings (sow in trays Feb–Apr)	Mar–May	
Parsnip	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Mar–Apr	
Peas	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Apr–May	
Radish	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Mar–May	
Swiss chard (spinach)	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Mar–Apr	
Turnip	Excellent	1 · Very easy	Sow in place	Mar–May	
Cauliflower	Excellent	4 · Challenging	Seedlings (sow in trays Feb–Apr)	Mar–May	
Chinese cabbage (pak choi)	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Seedlings (sow in trays Feb–Mar)	Mar–Apr	
English spinach	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Mar–May	
Globe artichoke	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Plant crowns	Mar–May	
Herbs					
Parsley	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Mar–May	
Fruit Trees					
Grapefruit	With care	3 · Moderate	Plant a grafted tree	Mar–May	Average temperature of 16.3 °C is too cool for grapefruit
Berries & Vines					
Strawberry	Excellent	2 · Easy	Seedlings (sow in trays Jan–Apr)	Mar–May	

CROP	RATING	EFFORT	HOW	WHEN	WATCH OUT
Field Crops					
Barley	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Apr–May	
Chickpea	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Apr–May	
Wheat	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Apr–May	
Oats	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Mar–May	
Canola	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Apr–May	

Winter · Jun–Aug 34 crops

CROP	RATING	EFFORT	HOW	WHEN	WATCH OUT
Vegetables					
Beetroot	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Aug	
Broad bean	Excellent	1 · Very easy	Sow in place	Jun	
Carrot	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Aug	
Celery	Excellent	4 · Challenging	Seedlings (sow in trays Apr–Jun)	Jun–Aug	
Leek	Excellent	2 · Easy	Seedlings (sow in trays Apr–May)	Jun–Jul	
Lettuce	Excellent	2 · Easy	Seedlings (sow in trays May)	Jun	
Onion	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Seedlings (sow in trays Apr–May)	Jun–Jul	
Parsnip	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Aug	
Peas	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Jun–Aug	
Radish	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Jun–Aug	
Swiss chard (spinach)	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Aug	
Turnip	Excellent	1 · Very easy	Sow in place	Jun–Aug	
Asparagus	Excellent	4 · Challenging	Plant a bare-root tree	Jun–Aug	
Rhubarb	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Plant a bare-root tree	Jun–Aug	
Herbs					
Parsley	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Jun–Aug	
Fruit Trees					
Fig	Excellent	1 · Very easy	Plant a bare-root tree	Jun–Aug	
Plum	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Plant a bare-root tree	Jun–Aug	
Apricot	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Plant a bare-root tree	Jun–Aug	
Nectarine	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Plant a bare-root tree	Jun–Aug	
Peach	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Plant a bare-root tree	Jun–Aug	
Pear	Good	5 · Expert	Plant a bare-root tree	Jun–Aug	About 33 chill portions per winter; typical varieties need 40 or more - look for low-chill...
Apple	With care	5 · Expert	Plant a bare-root tree	Jun–Aug	About 33 chill portions per winter; typical varieties need 45 or more - look for low-chill...

CROP	RATING	EFFORT	HOW	WHEN	WATCH OUT
Grapefruit	With care	3 · Moderate	Plant a grafted tree	Jun, Aug	Average temperature of 16.3 °C is too cool for grapefruit
Berries & Vines					
Raspberry	Excellent	4 · Challenging	Plant a bare-root tree	Jun–Aug	
Table grape	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Plant a bare-root tree	Jun–Aug	
Field Crops					
Barley	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Jun	
Wheat	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Sow in place	Jun	
Potato	Excellent	3 · Moderate	Plant tubers	Jul–Aug	
Oats	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Jun–Aug	
Canola	Excellent	2 · Easy	Sow in place	Jun	
Indigenous & African Crops					
Wild rosemary (kapokbos)	Excellent	2 · Easy	Plant cuttings	Jun–Aug	
Buchu (round-leaf)	Good	5 · Expert	Plant from a pot	Jun–Aug	Typical soil pH here is 6.4, far above the 3.5-4.5 that buchu (round-leaf) needs. Grow it…
Honeybush	Good	5 · Expert	Plant from a pot	Aug	Typical soil pH here is 6.4, far above the 4.0-5.0 that honeybush needs. Grow it in a rais…
Rooibos	Good	5 · Expert	Plant from a pot	Jul–Aug	Typical soil pH here is 6.4; rooibos prefers 4.5-5.5. Add compost and sulphur to lower it.

Not recommended here

Amadumbe (taro), Banana, Baobab, Black pepper, Cashew nut, Cassava, Cherry, Coconut palm, Ginger, Groundnut (peanut), Guava, Lemongrass, Litchi, Makataan (bitter watermelon), Mango, Marula, Monkey orange, Okra, Pawpaw (papaya), Pecan, Pineapple, Sugar cane, Watermelon.

About this report. FarmBoss models one area of about 1 km² around this point. Climate: CHELSA 1981–2010, corrected to TerraClimate 1991–2020. Soil: ISRIC SoilGrids. Terrain: Copernicus DEM. Crop requirements: South African Department of Agriculture production guidelines and other sources cited on each crop page. Your own garden can differ: microclimate, shade and soil vary over short distances, so a simple soil test is always worth it.

Online version, with every crop's reasons and planting calendar: https://farmboss.co.za/place/brooklands-city-of-cape-town-3369302