



Eggplant Planting Guide

About Eggplant

The eggplant is a delicate, tropical perennial with glossy purple fruits and a soft, spongy texture when cooked, offering a rich and complex flavor.

When to Plant

Start seeds indoors 8-10 weeks before your last frost in the spring. Transplant outdoors when soil temperatures reach over 50 degrees F.

Where to Plant

Eggplants require full sun and grow best in a well-drained sandy loam or loam soil, fairly high in organic matter. Soil pH should be 5.8-6.5.

How to Plant

Sow eggplant seeds in small pots, 1/4" deep. Water and cover loosely with a plastic bag or a plastic seedling flat to cover to retain moisture. Place them in a warm area, as a good amount of heat is preferred.

Caring for Eggplant

Keep the seedlings moist, and you'll likely see condensation on the plastic. If not, lightly mist the seeds to prevent dislodging them. Germination generally takes 7-14 days, and then you'll remove the plastic and place the pots under bright lights or by a window. Transplanting to larger pots is sometimes necessary before you'll be ready to bring them outside. Harden off the seedlings and transplant to your outdoor planting site. Eggplants may require staking to keep them upright while growing. Harvest when skin looks glossy. At this point the fruit will likely stop growing larger -- about 60-90 after initial planting, depending on variety. Cut the eggplant off its vine with shears. It should only have a short stem once removed.