

How to Grow Eggplant: Cheat Sheet

Best Time to Plant: After the last frost date in your area when the soil has warmed up to around 70°F (21°C) or more.

Soil pH: Eggplants prefer a slightly acidic to neutral soil pH range of 5.5 to 7.0.

Soil Type: Well-draining, loamy soil with good fertility and organic matter content is ideal for eggplants.

Watering: Keep the soil consistently moist, providing about 1-2 inches of water per week. Avoid overwatering to prevent root diseases.

Fertilizing: Apply a balanced fertilizer at planting and then side-dress with a nitrogen-rich fertilizer every 4-6 weeks during the growing season.

Plant Spacing: Plant eggplants 18-24 inches apart in rows that are spaced about 2-3 feet apart.

Common Pests: Watch out for aphids, flea beetles, spider mites, and hornworms. Use row covers, insecticidal soap, and neem oil to manage pests.

Companion Plants: Eggplants grow well with basil, marigolds, and peppers. Avoid planting with potatoes and fennel.

Harvest Time: Depending on the variety, you can start harvesting eggplants when they reach a size of 6-8 inches and have a glossy, smooth skin.

Storage: Eggplants are best used soon after harvest, but if you need to store them, keep them in a cool, dry place or the refrigerator's crisper drawer for up to a week. Avoid washing until ready to use.