

EGGPLANT

Eggplant is one of the vegetables you can grow in your garden that are very sensitive to cold. When deciding to grow eggplant, remember that they are similar to peppers. They should be planted after the chance of any sort of frost, in the Susquehanna Valley that means around mid-May.

How to Plant Eggplant

When growing eggplant, you want to remember that planting eggplant from seed should be done indoors or in a greenhouse setting. or you may choose to purchase plants from your local garden center.

When planting eggplant, if you plant them too early, you will risk hurting the plant. The soil needs to be warm before you put them outdoors. Too early and the cold soil will kill the roots of the plants. Eggplant is more sensitive than tomatoes to the cold.

Where to Plant Eggplant

When you are thinking about where to plant eggplant, you should think about your gardening space. Eggplants need lots of space. When planting eggplant, put them about 18 inches apart in the row, and the rows need to be about 30 inches apart if not more. This is quite a large area. .

You will want to fertilize your eggplants after you transplant the seedlings. Also, mid-season, when growing eggplants, side-dress them with nitrogen.

Planting eggplant is done best when you can expect most growth to happen during the summer. They thrive during the summertime heat, making the biggest fruits during this part of the growing season.

You want to be sure during the summer heat that you water frequently and make sure the soil stays somewhat moist. Don't let the plants dry out.

When to Pick an Eggplant

You will know when to pick an eggplant when you see that they are six to eight inches long. Be sure when picking your eggplant you use a knife and don't just twist or break the eggplant off the stems. This can harm the plants for the rest of the eggplants.

Young eggplants are always best because if they get too old, the plant is spongy, bitter and not as tasty. The young ones have the best flavor.

So long as you know the growing season and best conditions for growing eggplants, you will find that knowing when to pick an eggplant is simply the easiest thing to know.