

FOR CONTAINER GROWING EGGPLANTS

- Eggplants are easily grown in containers.
- Grow eggplants in pots at least 12 inches in diameter and 12 inches in height. Choose a smaller growing variety for container growing.
- Be sure to keep the potting soil just moist through the season. Do not let the soil dry out.
- Fertilize eggplants in containers every two to three weeks with organic fertilizer for better and robust growth.



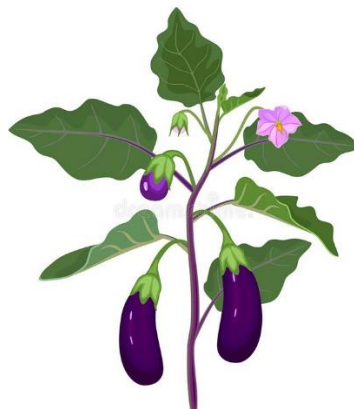
WATER & FERTILIZATION

- Fertilize every 2 or 3 weeks until the fruit has set and then every 3 to 4 weeks after.
- Eggplants require evenly moist soil to ensure the best and fastest growth. Do not allow the soil to dry out and do not overwater.
- Inconsistent soil moisture can result in misshapen fruits.



HARVESTING EGGPLANTS

- Time from planting to harvest is 14 to 21 weeks from seed, 9 to 10 weeks after transplanting.
- Harvest eggplant young before the flesh becomes pithy.
- Eggplants are ready for harvest when the fruit is glossy, firm, and full-colored.
- Eggplants with no seeds are immature. Fruits with hard, dark seeds are overripe.
- Eggplants that are under or overripe will be bitter tasting.
- Cut eggplants from the stem with a pruning shear or sharp knife. Leave a short stub of stem attached to the fruit.



SOURCE:

TECHNO KIT FOR LOWLAND VEGETABLE
PRODUCTION (EGGPLANT PRODUCTION GUIDE)
https://harvesttotable.com/how_to_grow_eggplant/

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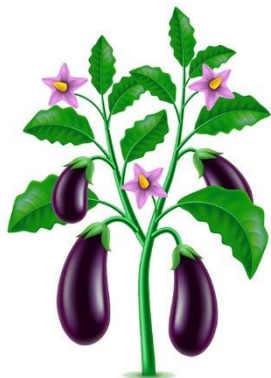


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EGGPLANT PRODUCTION



INTRODUCTION



Eggplant or (*Solanum melongena esculentum*) is a good source of potassium, iron, protein and Vitamins A and B. It is naturally low in calories and no fat. Eggplant skin is called “nasunin”. Nasunin is a potent antioxidant and free radical scavenger that has been shown to protect all membranes from damage.

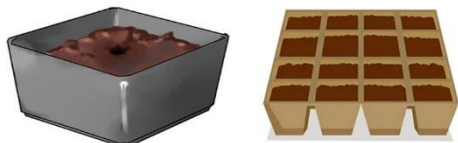
SELECTION OF VARIETIES

Select varieties that are high yielding, resistant to insect pests and diseases in the area, non-seasonal, adapted to local climatic conditions and acceptable to the consumers to gain optimum yield and profit.



PLANTING METHODS

Two methods of seedling establishment in eggplant, (1) seedbed method & (2) Seedling tray/ box method.



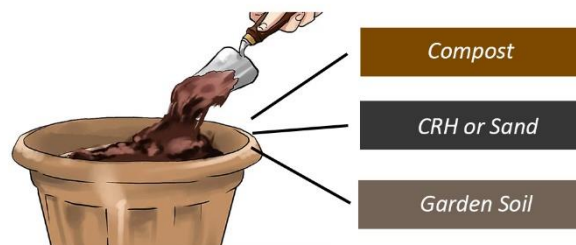
SEEDLING TRAY/ POTLETS METHOD

Raising seedlings in tray or potlets requires less seeds, promotes uniform growth of superior seedlings, minimizes transplanting shock and lessens seedling mortality. It also saves labor for thinning, weeding, watering, and pest management.

PLANTING (SEEDLINGS)

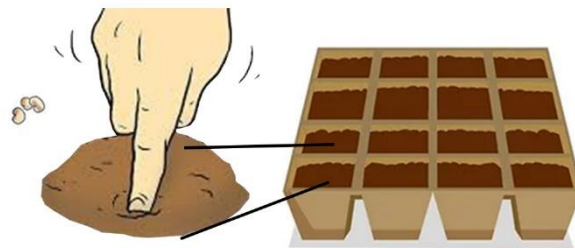
-Soil Media (Prepare the sowing medium by mixing thoroughly 1 part compost, 1 part carbonized rice hull (CRH) or fine sand, and 1 part garden soil.

-Sterilize the garden soil by roasting or drenching with boiling water before mixing with other medium.



-**Sowing** using Tray (wooden or plastic)

- The night before sowing, soak the required amount of seeds in clean water. Sow immediately or air dry the seeds before sowing.
- Fill holes of the tray or potlets with the medium and slightly compact it using your palm. Use a seedling tray with 100 or 104 holes.
- Sow one seed per hole of the seedling tray at a depth of 0.5 cm.
- Cover theseeds with fine soil.
- Sprinkle with water
- 1-2 weeks after sowing, it is now ready for pricking into individual potlets or “lukong” (plastic pots/ice candy wrapper/banana leaves).



CARE & MAINTENANCE OF SEEDLINGS

- Protect the seedlings from excessive sunlight and rain by providing a temporary shade using available indigenous materials such as plastic, cogon, talahib or coconut leaves.
- Water the seedlings preferably in the morning to minimize damping off. The amount of water to be applied should be just enough to keep the soil moist. Over watering favors damping-off and production of weak seedlings. Thin the seedlings if necessary.
- Water immediately after applying organic fertilizer to prevent leaf injury.
- One week before transplanting, harden the seedlings by gradually exposing them to sunlight, and withholding water.



TRANSPLANTING

- Transplant in the late afternoon or on a cloudy day to minimize transplant shock.
- Pull seedlings carefully, do not remove soil adhering to the roots. Seedlings recover easily, provided root damage during pulling is minimal.
- Place transplants in holes, cover the roots with soil, and firm lightly.
- Water immediately after transplanting to establish good root-to-soil contact.

