

Gourmet Vegetables

Eggplant Black Beauty

(Solanum melongena)

Feed the Family



The earliest record of cultivation of the aubergine is from the fifth century B. C. and it was also grown in India at an early date. It was found in Europe in the thirteenth century, but not widely cultivated until the sixteenth. Aubergine is the french name, derived from the Catalan albergina, which itself is a corruption of the Arabic al-badingan. This variety is used predominately in Asia and is grown in Japan.



DESCRIPTION

Oval shaped purple fruit. This large spreading plant produces 6 - 12 fruits per plant. This particular type of eggplant is harvested fresh, as picking plants when ripe will increase your yield. The eggplant is relatively cold sensitive and takes around 80 days to mature.



USES

Culinary

Excellent roasted whole, sliced, stuffed or added to stews and casseroles.



ROWTH

Early maturing variety, also disease resistant. Days to maturity are calculated from the

time you set plants in the garden. Add 6-8 weeks to raise transplant from seed. When planting space 18-24in/46-70cm inches apart.



CULTIVATION

Perfect for containers, prolific yielders in pots. These stunning vegetables are as easy to grow as peppers, but thrive in hotter weather. Space 1-2in/4cm apart. Seed should ideally be grown in heat around 20°C/70°F in spring and seedlings planted out in late spring, when frost has finished.



If timing and warmth is limited, pot plants can be used. Soil should be well drained and well manured, with high potash to encourage good root growth. Eggplants do well in grow bags in peat compost, but can become too leafy and require frequent watering in hot weather. Pinching the top out when the plant is about 16 in/40cm. tall will encourage bushy growth. Feed with high potash tomato fertilizer when fruits are swelling. Both white and red spider mite are likely to affect aubergines grown under glass, and red spider is often found in dry places outside. Both these pests breed at great speed in dry, warm conditions and can be controlled by frequent wetting of the leaves and by spraying a soap solution, as well as by establishing a good population of suitable predators. The warm humid condition ideal for eggplants is also perfect for botrytis, which can attach to the dead petals, or places on the stem where there is a wound, especially in autumn/fall if the weather becomes wetter and cooler.



www.herbherbert.com

Any enquiries can be directed to:
HERB HERBERT P/L

This Herb description is for informal use only; although due care is taken to make sure information is correct we cannot accept any liability for any harm or illness arising from the use of the plants described above.