

Gourmet Vegetables

Eggplant Tango

Feed the Family

(*Solanum melongena* var. *esculentum*)



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 'albadingan'.



DESCRIPTION

Slender white fruit. Perennial grown as annual.

Aubergine, may be sub-shrubby or herbaceous, usually grown as an annual. Leaves are soft and hairy, with purple flowers. Very strong plant that does not need a lot of structural support. They are prolific yielders, up to 50 fruit per plant, early maturing and much more disease resistant. The glossy white fruit is picked when young to encourage further fruit set. Snowy; is an unusual variety producing fruit that is approx 18cm long cylindrical fruits with snowy white skin and flesh. White eggplants have firmer flesh and a creamier texture compared to regular eggplants. They are extremely well adapted to hot climates, with a great taste and prolific growth habit.



USES

Culinary

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



GROWTH

Early maturing variety, also disease resistant. Approx. 55-60 days to harvest. Days to maturity are calculated from the time you set plants in the garden. (Add 6-8 weeks to raise transplant from seed.)



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. Pinching the top out when the plant is about 40cm/16in. 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. 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. With proper attention to the needs of this plant, it will grow exceptionally well and produce a large crop of slender white fruit.

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.