

How to Grow Eggplants – The Complete Guide To Growing Eggplants

After approximately eight weeks, your seedlings will be ready for transplanting. You have two options: either transplant them directly into your garden or transfer them to smaller pots. If you choose the latter, prepare a mixture of vermiculite, peat moss, and either compost or worm castings. This blend creates a porous medium that will support your young plants for a few weeks.

Caring for Eggplants

As your eggplants continue to grow, it's crucial to provide proper care. This includes regular applications of liquid fertilizers and consistent watering.

Around ten weeks post-germination, you can move your eggplants to larger containers. Containers approximately 16 inches wide and high work well for optimal production.

To promote better air circulation and access to sunlight, remember to prune out any yellowing leaves at the bottom of the plants.

Eggplants thrive in full sun and require around 6-8 hours of sunlight daily. It's important to keep the soil consistently moist, so be sure to water them once a day or even twice on hot, sunny days.

Due to the potential scarcity of natural pollinators like bees, you might consider hand pollination. Utilize an electric toothbrush to gently touch the flowers, helping to disperse pollen around the stigma.

Harvesting

Expect your first harvest after about 21 weeks. For the best flavor and texture, harvest your eggplants when they are tender and young.

Adapt your fertilization routine as your eggplants grow. Begin with high-nitrogen fertilizers during their early stages, continuing until they reach the flowering stage. Afterward, switch to a vegetable fertilizer rich in phosphorus to encourage flowering and fruiting.

Eggplants particularly benefit from Epsom salt. Mix a tablespoon with water and feed it to your plants every 3-4 weeks. Epsom salt provides essential magnesium and sulfur, which are crucial for their growth.