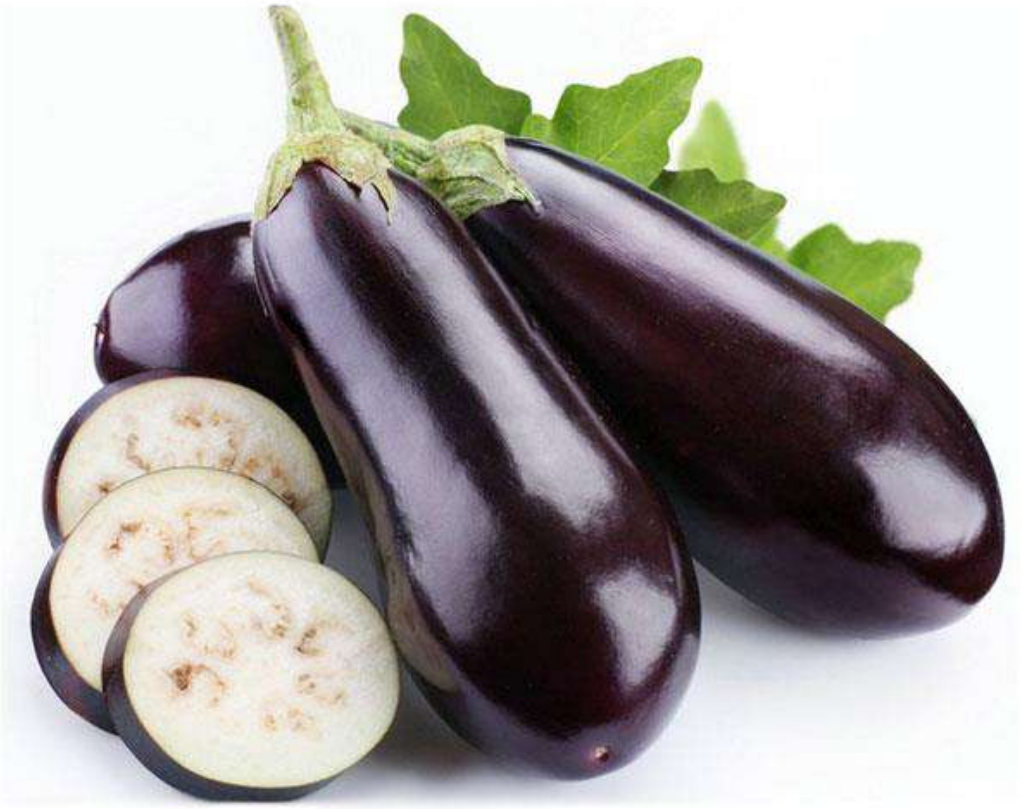
EGG PLANTS



Designed by:

Crop Manager Team

Table of Contents

Varieties

Egg plant varieties differ in size, shape, color, growth and maturity time, i.e. oval to oblong egg plants- these are large, oval shaped and purplish black. They produce best in warm climate.

There is the **Japanese egg plant** –it matures faster than the oval egg plant producing numerous long slender fruits.

Small fruited egg plants - are the best type for compact spaces.
Produce fruits in attractive clusters which may be green, white, lavender or purple.

Then the **Novelty egg plants** - these include unusual varieties from around the world like the orange Turkish eggplant, green Thai egg plant or egg shaped white egg plants.

Soil conditions

Egg plants do well in fertile, well drained, and slightly acidic soils.
They should be high in organic matter for best growth and yield.
Could be any type of soil as egg plants tolerate abroad range of soils and also has moderate moisture needs.

Climatic conditions

Eggplants are known to be a warm season crop. It can survive certain amounts of cold units, but are intolerant of very low temperatures. An eggplant crop requires very stable temperature ranges with minimums and maximums not being too wide apart. Temperature variation might result in poor fruit quality or reduced yields.
The minimum temperature is around 10°C with the maximum being 34°C.
Optimum temperatures are around 26 - 29°C.

Planting

Set transplants at 18-24 inches apart in rows 30-36 inches apart.
Use row covers to protect plants with heavy fruit set.
Fertilize egg plants as they are heavy feeders, but avoid high nitrogen fertilizers. These may encourage lush foliage growth at the expense of fruiting.

Weed control

Several knockdown herbicides are registered for use on eggplants but weed control is mainly by shallow inter-row cultivation until the plants are well enough established to smother the weeds.

Diseases

There are 3 major diseases affecting egg plants: Bacterial Wilt, Sclerotinia rot and Verticillium wilt. Insects might be harmful too though we shall not explore them here.

Bacterial Wilt.

Symptoms

- Affected plants may wilt and die within days of infection.
- Leaves may appear healthy or only slightly yellow prior to plant death.
- Under temperate conditions, infected plants develop a slower, progressive wilt in which leaves turn yellow.
- The lower stems of affected plants develop dark, vascular browning that often extends into the cortical and pith tissues.

Management

- Crop rotation.
- Fumigants such as 1,3-dichloropropene + chloropicrin which has a general registration for soil borne diseases can be

Verticillium wilt

Symptoms

- Wilting of the older leaves, yellowing and death.
- The leaves will often have a V-shape of yellow.
- The whole plant may wilt and die.

Management

- Fumigants such as 1,3- dichloropropene + chloropicrin have a general registration for soil borne diseases and can be applied.
- Balanced crop nutrition.
- Avoidance of water-logging.
- Good farm hygiene.
- Grafting of eggplant onto resistant tomato varieties.

Sclerotinia rot

Symptoms

Crop rotation.

Good hygiene.

There no registered fungicides for treatment of this disease, however one could use Cyprodinil + fludioxonil or Penthiopyrad.

Harvesting

Harvest your Egg plants 16-24 weeks after sowing when the skin of the fruit is shinny and un wrinkled.

Cut the fruit close to the stem, but leaving about an inch of it attached.

Egg plant can be stored for up to 2 weeks in humid conditions not lower than 50°F.