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virginia home food production



EGGPLANT

DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE

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BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

MH 427

ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

LIGHT: sunny

SOIL: well-drained, high organic matter

FERTILITY: rich
pH: 6.0-7.0

TEMPERATURE: warm (70°-85°F)

MOISTURE: average



CULTURE

PLANTING: transplant after danger of frost, when soil is thoroughly warmed.

SPACING: 18-24" x 30-36"

HARDINESS: very tender annual

FERTILIZER NEEDS: heavy feeder
(1½ oz. of ammonium nitrate
(33-0-0) per 10 feet of row)

CULTURAL PRACTICES: There are two kinds of eggplant, egg shaped or the long, slender Japanese varieties. Eggplants do well in hot weather and are a good summer crop. Transplant outside after garden soil is warm; cold soil

will damage roots and reduce plant vigor. Hot caps can be used to protect the plants from late frosts.

When plants are about 6 inches high, nip back the growing tip to encourage branching. Mature fruit should not be left on the plant because this reduces productivity.

Eggplants are susceptible to verticillium wilt and plantings should be rotated with other crops on the same garden soils.

COMMON PROBLEMS

DISEASES: Verticillium wilt

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INSECTS: flea beetles, aphids,
lace bugs, Colorado potato
beetle, red spider mites

NUTRITIONAL VALUE

1 cup cooked eggplant		
<u>Grams</u>	<u>Calories</u>	<u>% U.S. RDA</u>
		<u>Vitamin C</u>
200	40	10

HARVESTING AND STORAGE

DAYS TO MATURITY: 100-150 days
from seed
70-85 days from transplants

HARVEST: Fruit should be large,
shiny, and a uniformly deep
purple color. When the side
of the fruit is pressed slightly
with thumbnail and an indent-
ation remains, the fruit is
ripe. Long, slender Japanese
eggplants may be ready to
harvest from finger or hotdog
size. If fruit is a dull color
and has brown seeds, it is too
mature and should be discarded.

APPROXIMATE YIELDS: (per 10 feet
of row) 20 pounds

AMOUNT TO RAISE PER PERSON: 12 lbs.

STORAGE: cool (45 -50^oF) moist
(90% RH) conditions. 1 week

PREVENTION: freeze, pickle

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