



Black Beauty

EGGPLANT *Solanum melongena*

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Eggplants produce well in high heat, but may not set fruit below 70°F. Where autumn is warm, sow fall crops in early summer.

Culture: Sow indoors in well-draining containers in late winter, 6–8 weeks before last frost. Harden off and transplant out 1–2 weeks after last frost. Protect young seedlings from flea beetles by covering with row cover, uncovering when flowers set for pollination. Apply thick mulch. Mature plants will produce in the fall if protected with row cover on frosty nights. Provide fertile, well-drained soil and even moisture. Days to maturity are from transplant date.

Harvest: Eggplants are ripe when the skin is glossy and resilient to pressure. Harvest frequently for best production.

Seed Savers: To save seeds for home planting, isolate from other eggplants by at least 75 ft.

Soil
Temp.
75–90°F

Sowing
Depth
¼"

Final Plant
Spacing
20–24"

Final Row
Spacing
24–36"

Light
Full Sun

Days to
Emerge
6–10