

— October —
Garden Guide

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- Feature Plant -
Eggplant

Eggplants or Aubergines as they are also known come in a delightful range of colours and shapes. Related to garden staples the potato and tomato, the eggplant is known as a vegetable, but is actually a berry fruit by botanical definition!

Where to Plant: Eggplants are very frost tender and love the sunshine, so a position that receives 6-8 hours of sunshine in a richly composted and fertilised soil is ideal. Digging in a composted manure based fertiliser like Super Booster or Blood & Bone Plus into the garden bed will get them off to a great start. Free draining soil that isn't heavy or clay-like works best.

Staking your eggplant as the grow will help keep the fruit off the ground and reduce the risk of disease.

Due to being a relative of the tomato, it is best not to plant where tomatoes have been grown for at least three years.

Watering: Keep up a regular watering regime during the warm spring days and mulch your eggplants well to prevent weeds growing and ensure moisture remains in the soil.

Fertilising: Fertilise every 4-6 weeks with an all purpose fertiliser like Super Growth that contains the nutrients needed to take the eggplant crop from seedling through to harvest.

Regular application of a seaweed concentrate every few weeks is also recommended for overall plant health and to help protect against pest and disease pressure. Neptune Liquid Seaweed can be applied to the soil and foliage.

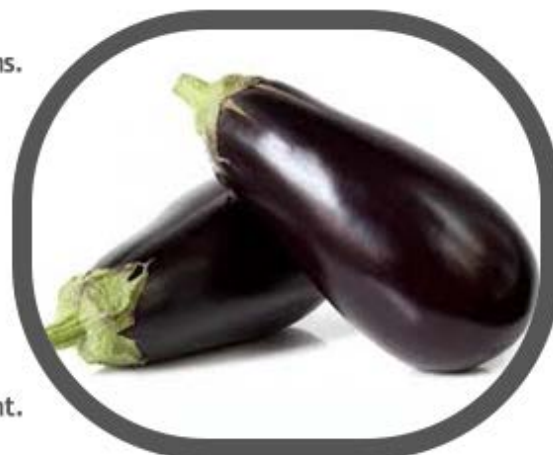


Mulching: Mulch will help the plants retain moisture in the heat of summer and protect the plant from soil borne disease and fungal problems.

Keep the mulch away from the soil to avoid collar rot.

Harvest: Depending on the variety, your eggplants should start producing fruit at around 12 weeks and be ready to begin harvesting at around 14 weeks.

When the skin is smooth and shiny, cut the fruit using clean secateurs to avoid damaging the plant.



What to Plant

— NOW —

Flowers:

Cool Climate/Temperate Climate

Amaranthus, aster, balsam, begonia, carnation, chrysanthemum, cockscomb, coleus, cosmos, dahlia, dianthus, everlasting daisy, gazania, gerbera, impatiens, marigold, nasturtium, petunia, phlox, Iceland poppy, portulaca, rudbeckia, salvia, snapdragon, sunflower, torenia, verbena and zinnia.

Sub-Tropical Climate

Ageratum, aster, balsam, carnation, chrysanthemum, cockscomb, coleus, cosmos, dahlia, dianthus, everlasting daisy, gazania, geranium, gerbera, impatiens, kangaroo paw, marigold, nasturtium, petunia, portulaca, rudbeckia, salvia, snapdragon, sunflower, torenia, verbena and zinnia

Tropical Climate

Ageratum, amaranthus, begonia, chrysanthemum, cockscomb, coleus, cosmos, dahlia, dianthus, everlasting daisy, gazania, geranium, gerbera, impatiens, kangaroo paw, marigold, nasturtium, petunia, portulaca, rudbeckia, salvia, snapdragon, sunflower, torenia, verbena and zinnia.

Herbs & Vegetables:

Cool Climate/Temperate Climate

Artichoke, asparagus, beetroot, broad beans, broccoli, Brussels sprout, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, celery, endive, leek, lettuce, onion, peas, snow peas, silver beet, spinach and radish. chives, curry, dill, mint, parsley, sage and thyme. chives, curry, dill, mint, parsley, sage and thyme.

Sub-Tropical Climate

Beans, beetroot, broccoli, cabbage, capsicum, carrot, chicory, Chinese cabbage, cucumber, eggplant, lettuce, melons, mustard, onion, parsnip, potato, pumpkin, radish, rosella, silver beet, squash, sweet corn, sweet potato, tomato and watermelon. basil, chives, coriander, dill, mint, oregano, parsley, sage and thyme.

Tropical Climate

Beans, beetroot, broccoli, Chinese cabbage, capsicum, cucumber, eggplant, endive, lettuce, melons, okra, onion, parsnip, potato, pumpkin, radish, rhubarb, rosella, silver beet, spring onion, squash, sweet corn, sweet potato, tomato and zucchini. silver beet, spinach, squash, sweet potato, pumpkin, tomato, watermelon and zucchini.

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow"

Audrey Hepburn

Did You Know?

The green bean has disease fighting tendencies! The lutein content found in all varieties is said to fight off macular degeneration and blindness!

POTTING MIX

THE BEST MIX FOR YOUR POTTED PLANTS!

Organic Enriched, Premium Potting Mix for both Indoor & Outdoor Use.

Added Water Saving Crystals for moisture retention

Added Slow Release Fertiliser for sustained growth








Trace Elements for balanced plant nutrition





Tasks in the Garden

— NOW —

-  **Plant Citrus:** Plant new citrus trees with a couple handfuls of composted pellets like Super Booster or Super Growth. They will build organic matter in the soil and provide essential nutrients for the growing trees.
-  **Pruning:** Cut back all tropical plants like cordylines and crotons, they will reshoot in the warmer weather.
-  **Mulch:** Re-mulch your garden beds as the weather starts to warm up. The ideal depth is about 10cm deep to stop weeds growing through. Not Just Mulch is perfect as it gives the plants a boost of nutrients as well as keeping moisture in!
-  **Perennials:** Time to plant summer perennials like gerberas, daylilies, canna lilies and calibrachoa
-  **Fertilise Lawns:** Give lawns a good dose of fertiliser like Lawn & Garden to help revive any dead patches and boost organic matter. Super Feed liquid fertiliser sprayed over the lawn will help green up a lawn that is looking sad.
-  **Orchids:** Divide orchids that have started to be crowded in the pot.
-  **Watering:** Keep up a regular watering regime as the weather starts to warm up. A good layer of mulch will mean you can cut back on watering as the moisture will stay in the soil.
-  **Add Organic Matter:** A composted manure fertiliser like Super Booster or Super Growth is an easy way to add organic matter to the soil to help improve water holding capacity and provide nutrients for the growing plants.
-  **Fruits:** Give citrus and fruit trees a feed of fertiliser. Lightly trim passion-fruit vines to encourage new growth. Mulch around the base of your trees.

Spring Fertilising

Super Growth Pellets around vegetables & herbs, fruit trees & flowering plants for healthy, green growth

Super Grass over the lawn to help it become lush and green after the drier winter period

Super Growth or Super Booster in the planting hole or dug through the beds for new plantings

Natives may need a boost with Super Growth or Neptune to encourage flowering.

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