

EGGPLANT

Varieties

Regular – Classic, Dusky, Night Shadow, Megal (elongated).

Long type - Long Tom, Pingtung.

White: Bibo.

See your seed dealer for the most recent variety recommendations.

Seed Treatment

Use seed treated with **Thiram** seed protectant.

Temperature Requirements

Transplants grown under glass should be kept at the following temperatures for best results:

21 to 27°C in the day.

18 to 21°C at night.

Planting

Eggplant requires a long growing season, so it is usually started in the greenhouse. Sow seeds in shallow flats or trays 9 to 10 weeks before transplanting to the field. Constant temperatures must be maintained as young plants are easily checked by cool temperatures or draughts. Growing eggplant using plasticulture provides many benefits. See plasticulture section (Chapter 5).

Spacing

Rows 90 to 120 cm apart, plants in the row 45 to 60 cm apart.

Fertilizer

A soil test is necessary to determine phosphate and potash requirements. See Chapter 3 for recommendations based on soil test results.

Broadcast and disc in 100 kg/ha (40 kg/acre) nitrogen and all of the required phosphate and potash prior to transplanting.

Side-dress with 40 kg/ha (16 kg/acre) of nitrogen after the first flowers are set.

If mulching and trickle irrigation are used, nutrients should be delivered by fertigation. See “Fertigation”, Chapter 5.

Weed Control

No chemical control is registered. A black or wavelength selective plastic mulch provides excellent weed control and other benefits. See “Plastic Mulches”, Chapter 5.

Insect Control

Aphids

These small, soft, sucking insects cluster on growing tips or on leaves and cause wilting and yellowing.

Control

See Table 7.25.

Flea Beetles

Small, active black, jumping beetles eat holes in leaves, giving a shot-holed appearance. Young plants may be destroyed.

Control

Thorough coverage of the upper and lower surfaces of the leaves with one of the sprays listed in Table 7.25 is essential.

Mites

See Cucurbits section (this chapter) for description.

Control

See Table 7.25.

Disease Control

Verticillium Wilt

The causal fungus is soil or seed-borne. First, lower leaves wilt and drop, then petioles turn yellow and wither and, finally, the entire plant may wilt. The disease is usually worse on light, sandy soils in the Interior, and where root lesion nematodes are also present.

Control

1. Disinfect used seedling trays prior to use (see Vegetable Transplants, Chapter 5).
2. Grow seedlings in sterilized soil or soilless mix.
3. Use seed treated with **Thiram** seed protectant.
4. Follow a four-year rotation plan, avoiding crops such as potatoes, tomatoes, melons and peppers which are susceptible to *Verticillium* wilt.