

Brief Notes on Cultivation

	Eggplant
Cultivation Environment:	Warm and sunny weather, as well as wet soil are preferred. Grow best between 25°C and 30°C in thick and deep sandy loam with good drainage, rich organic matter, and a pH value between 6.8 and 7.3.
Planting and Spacing:	<p>Transplantation of seedlings is preferred. The most suitable temperature for germination of eggplant is between 25°C and 30°C. Seed germination period is 10-20 days, depending on temperature. Maintain the seedlings in nursery and transplant them into open field when they have 4 to 5 true leaves (about 40 to 50 days after sowing).</p> <p>Plant spacing should be about 60 cm x 150 cm. Cultivate in single rows.</p>
Fertiliser Application and Management:	<p>Basal Dressing: Apply about 1 000 kg of compost, 90 kg of both peanut cake and bone meal to each d.c..</p> <p>Top Dressing: Apply 15 g of organic fertiliser (N:P:K:MgO=4:3:3:1) to each plant as top dressing 2 weeks after transplanting. After that, apply once every 2 weeks until the first fruit appears.</p> <p>Apply 15 g of organic fertiliser (N:P:K =9:3:7) to each plant once every 2 weeks during fruit-bearing period until the plant growth deteriorates.</p> <p>Application of an appropriate amount of foliar fertilizer during growth period may enhance the plant and fruit development.</p> <p>Irrigation: The water in the soil should be maintained. The soil should not be too dry or too wet.</p>
Plant Adjustment and Fruit Retention :	<p>Shape the plants with the two-leader or three-leader training method to maintain light penetration and good ventilation, which is conducive to fruit growth. Remove the fruits and lateral stems growing from the lower nodes and retain only those fruits growing at the nodes which are 50 cm to 60 cm above the ground.</p>
Harvesting:	Ready for harvest about 40 to 60 days after transplanting. The best time for harvest is in the morning and the second best is in the evening.