

## Harvest and Post-harvest Handling

Harvest in 60-80 days after transplanting. Harvest twice a week over a period of 3-5 months. Eggplants can be stored up to 10 days at a high relative humidity of 85-90% and a medium-low temperature of 10°C-13°C.



Source:

### **Techno-guide on Organic Vegetable Production**

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# Techno Guide on Organic Eggplant Production



## Seedling production



Prepare a 1x5 meter seedbed. Mix one part each of sand, compost and garden soil in the seedbed.

Place seeds in the furrows and water gently after sowing. Eggplant germinates in 7-10 days. When the plant shows 2-3 leaves after germination, prick and transfer to other seedbeds or plastic seedling trays. Four to six weeks after pricking, they are ready for the field setting.

## Land Preparation

Plow and harrow the field twice or thrice alternately and furrowing will follow.

## Transplanting

1. Plant seedlings 75 cm between rows and 50 cm between hills.
2. Water newly transplanted seedlings.
3. Transplant on dead hills within a week.



## Fertilization

1. Apply vermi-compost fertilizer at a rate of 5 tons per hectare during planting.
2. Apply vermi-tea and probiotic liquid fertilizer once a week to foliage or use the mixture as a soil drench.

*Note:* To prepare a vermi-tea solution, soak  $\frac{3}{4}$  sack vermin-compost in a plastic drum fully filled with water for seven (7) days of fermentation.

Commercial solutions: Mix 2-3 tbsp of probiotic fertilizers with one (1) liter of water.

## Pruning

Some lateral shoots should be removed. Excess and sickly branches should be pruned.

## Water Management

Water plants immediately after transplanting. During dry season, water the plants between 35-40mm.

## Weed Control

Till the soil often so as to destroy the weeds. Eggplants may be mulched to reduce weeds.

## Pest and Disease Management

- Major pests of eggplants are: fruit borer and aphids
- Major diseases of eggplants are: bacterial wilt, phytophthora, phomopsis and anthracnose.
- Apply orientation herbal nutrient (OHN) solution at rate of tbsps per liter of water.

*Alternative Solution:* mix 100 gms pounded hot pepper in 16 liters of water. Add one (1) tbsp powder soap and use as botanical spray. Some diseases can be minimize by mulching and solar sterilization for one week before transplanting.

