

Eggplant

Written by New Castle County Master Gardener Gail Hermenaus

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General Information

- **Scientific Name:** Solanum melongena
 - **Family:** Solanaceae
- Warm season
- **Planting Window:**
 - Start seeds under lights indoors in mid-March for transplanting
- **pH** = 5.5-6.5
- **MPD:** 12 inches (in both directions)
- If using containers, one plant can fit in a 5 gallon bucket, or two plants in an 18 gallon tote bin!
- **Tip:** work in one trowel-full of 4-6-6 fertilizer into hole before transplanting!

Successful Cultivators

- Black Beauty (74 days)
- Ophelia hybrid (55 days)

Common Pests and Diseases

- Flea beetles can occur when plants are small, use row covers until plant is large enough to resist significant damage
- Remove when plant begins to flower

Eggplant photos courtesy of Gail Hermenaus.



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