

1. Recommended Varieties

- Pritam/Long Purple
- Chahat
- Sigatoka Beauty

2. Yield

- 20 - 25 tonnes/ha

4. When to plant

Can be planted all year round, however there may be a drop in yields during the cool season.

5. Seed Rate

- 300 g/ha

6. Spacing

- 1.5m between rows and 0.5m within rows

7. Land Preparation

- Two ploughings and two harrowings are recommended for good soil tilth.



8. How to grow good seedlings

- Use only recommended varieties for high yields and quality produce.
- Prepare seedbed on a well-chosen site.
- Seedbed should be raised, well-drained and rich in organic matter.
- If possible dig in compost while preparing your seedbed.
- Sow seeds thinly and cover with soil to prevent over growing and outbreak of damping off disease.
- Water the seedbed either early in the morning or late in the afternoon when it is cool.

8. Where to plant

- Eggplants require well structured, deep alluvial, volcanic loam or sandy loam soils.

9. Fertilizer

- Poultry manure
At the rate of 12 t/ha 2 to 3 weeks before planting.
- NPK (13:13:21) 200kg/ha before planting.
- Urea at the rate of 100kg/ha.
Top dress 4 and 6 weeks after planting in two split applications.
A dose of 25kg/ha of urea is required after every 3 to 4 months during the production life span.

10. Weed Control

- A good land preparation will reduce weeds, spray with Paraquat at 100ml/15L of water (Sold as Gramazone, Agazone & Royal paraquat).
- Interrow cultivation and using a hoe later will also successfully control weeds in the plots.

11. Pest Control

- Lygus Bug - apply Malathion at 30ml/15L of water or Diazinon at 45ml/15L of water.
- Tobacco Flea Beetle - apply Malathion at 30ml/15L of water or Spray Acephate 75% a.i at 20g/15L of water (Acephate is sold as Orthene & Sunthene)
- Thrips - apply Confidor at the rate at 5ml/15L of water or Sunchoropid at the rate at 15ml/15L of water.



12. Disease Control

Damping - off

- Avoid excessive watering of seedbed. Use Kocide at 30g/15L of water to prevent fungal infections

Blossom blight

- Practice good field sanitation. Collect all mature fruits and throw them outside the field.

13. Harvesting

- After 60 to 90 days from planting, eggplants are ready to be picked and continues for more than 6 months for export. For local market harvesting can continue for a longer period.
- Only pick well developed and tender fruits.

14. Field planting

- Transplanting when seedlings are at 3 leaf stage.
- Harden seedlings before transplanting.
- Seedbed should be watered half an hour before lifting the seedlings.

* Lift, Don't pull seedlings out.

- Transplant late in the afternoon or on a dull day.

15. Cultivation

- Keep the field weed free but be careful not to disturb the base of the plants during weeding.

- Inter-row cultivation using horse/bullock driven implements.
- Keep the field clean i.e. collect all fallen eggplants, do not let it rot in the field.

16. Returns

- Good quality fruits can fetch up to \$0.50 to \$0.80/kg.
- Expected yield is 20 - 25tonnes/ha.
- Expected income \$10,000 to \$16,000.

17. Food value

- A good source of dietary fibre and vitamin C.

18. Bilateral Quarantine Agreement for Export

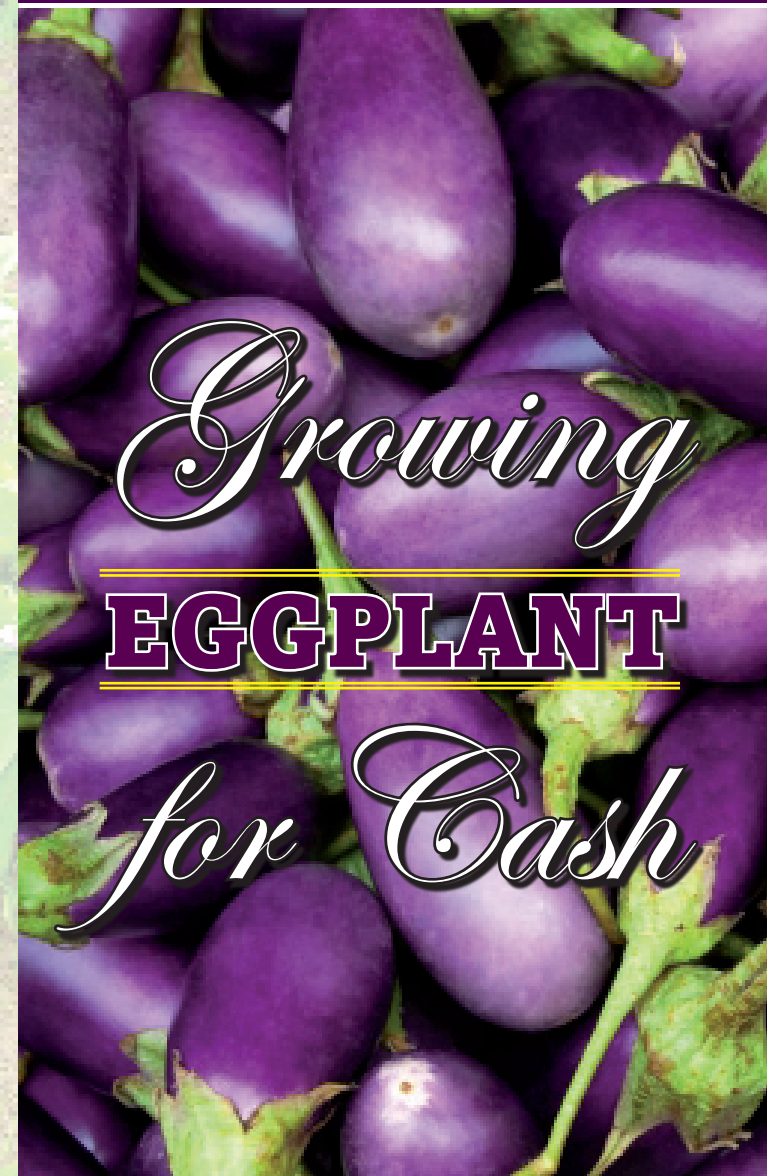
- Field should be clean at all times (weed free and well maintained)
- Spray with recommended chemicals for respective target pests.
- Remove and dispose off ripe, overripe, fallen and discarded fruits.
- Harvest quality eggplant for export
- Follow recommended agricultural practices to achieve good quality.



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Ministry of Agriculture



Growing

EGGPLANT

for Cash

Farmer's Leaflet 2015