

EGGPLANT TECHNOLOGY GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION

Eggplant (*Solanum melongena*) is grown as annual plant in our country. It is one of the most important vegetables in the country because of its popularity and its use in Filipino diet. It has a fleshy fruit which is stewed with other vegetables and served as base ingredient of the famous Ilocano dish pinakbet. Aside from cash, the fruit is also a good source of vitamins and minerals particularly calcium, phosphorous, iron and vitamin A, B, C (PROSEA FOR VEGETABLES NO. 8) In addition it can be a good source of medicine, wherein Australian researches developed an organic topical cream from glycoalkaloids, a group of cancer killing compounds present in eggplants. (Food for the family ,Health and Home May-June2007 p.39)

PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

Soil requirement

- Any type of soil is suited for growing eggplant, however well drained loamy soils are preferred for better production.

Land Preparation

- Plow and harrow the field alternately depending on soil type and soil moisture to obtain a good soil tilth.

Seedling Establishment and Production

- Prepare a seedbed measuring 1x5m consisting of mixture of 1 part compost and garden soils.
- Make furrows not more than 1cm deep and spaced at 10-15 cm apart.
- Place seeds in furrows and cover. Water before and after sowing.
- Mulch with rice straw and water regularly.
- Harden the seedlings a week before transplanting by gradually withholding water until they are temporarily wilted.

Transplanting

- Transplant the seedlings 4-5 weeks after sowing. Irrigate the area before transplanting.
- Plant one seedlings per hill at a distance of 0.5x 1.0m depending on variety.
- Irrigate by furrows as needed depending on season and soil type.

Fertilizer Application

- Incorporate organic fertilizer with the soil one-two weeks before planting at 120 bags per hectare.

Weeding and cultivation

- Weed 2– 3 times during the growing season or as necessary.
- Partial control of weeds can be done by hilling up 3-4 weeks after transplanting.
- Mulching can also be done to minimize weed growth and maintain uniform soil moisture.
- Spot weed the crops particularly tall weeds as the need arises so as not to compete with the crops

Pest Management

- Eggplant can be grown economically even without pesticides.
- Leafhoppers, shoot/fruitborers and *epilachna* beetles were the most common insect pest observed attacking eggplant. However this can be prevented and controlled through sanitation: weeding and removal of infected leaves and shoots specially during the critical stage of plant growth.
- Infected fruits with fruitborer including deformed and damage ones should also be harvested during harvesting time then burned to prevent the spread of the pest.

Harvesting

- Harvest fruits as soon as they attain satisfactory size which are still shiny and soft.
- Harvesting can be done once or twice a week .
- More frequent harvesting can reduce damage from fruit borers.

NUTRITIVE VALUE

The energy value is about 100kj/ 100g. Per 100 g edible portion, the fruits contain approximately the following:

Water	92g
Protein-	1.6g
Fat	0.2g
Carbohydrates	4.0g
Fiber	1.0g
Ash	0.6g
Calcium	22mg
Fe	0.9mg
Vit B6	0.07mg
Niacin	0.7g
Vit.C	6.0mg