

HOW TO GROW-AUBERGINES

Fun fact- aubergines belong to the nightshade family- *Solanaceae*. Other names for Aubergines are eggplants and garden eggs.

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Basic growing information-

- *Sowing indoors-sow aubergines in small 5cm pots January-April*
- *Light-they need full sunlight for growth and fruit development-protect from excessive sun behind glass.*
- *Temperature 18-21 celsius for seeds to germinate. 16 celsius and up after germination*
- *Flowers from July and fruits till September.*

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Aubergines are tropical and subtropical plants. This means they need a very warm growing environment, with temperatures above 20 celsius, ideally. They also require full sun and rich fertile soil. As they have medium nitrogen needs they should be fed with a balanced fertilizer once flowers start to form onwards.

To start with sow your aubergines from February to April. In either a small 5cm pot or into cellular trays- one seed per pot. Fill your pot with seed sowing compost ideally- this is good as it has a lower amount of nutrients and is very porous. However, if you don't have any then multi purpose compost will do. Before sowing your seeds soak them overnight, this speeds up germination then sow into the pots.

Store these in a warm and humid location. Such as in your propagator or just place a bag over your pot with air holes and keep soil moist.

Once they have germinated, move into a light location, when they reach heights of 10cm and up remember to pinch out the growing tips. This will help them bush out and develop more of a plant

Gradually pot them up, they need a lot of room to grow and develop a good plant that will fruit so make sure they have that and keep on top of it.



You could plant them out if it was an exceptionally warm and sunny summer but it's best to grow them next to a very warm window, conservatory etc.

As they reach taller heights and fruiting begins you may need to stake the plant. Make sure to use a cane that is thick and quite a bit taller than the plant.

When fruiting begins its also an option to limit the amount of fruit to six or so per plant. This ensures that what fruit is growing they develop to a reasonable size.

You know when to harvest aubergines as they will have glossy skin and be of a size you desire of your cultivar. if you leave it so long that the skin is no longer shiny the fruit will develop a bitter taste.



Aubergines are prone to greenfly, mealybugs, thrips and are very susceptible to powdery mildew. Especially if grown outside and it is consistently moist.

Any questions email CardenEden@orevalley.org.uk