Sicilian Eggplant

Solanum melongena 'Sicilian'



Sicilian Eggplant fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Palermo Eggplant

Description:

A visually stunning variety that is easy to grow and easy to harvest; produces medium sized dark purple-black fruit that are firm and delicious; excellent grilled, roasted, baked and fried; performs wonderfully in sunny containers and gardens

Edible Qualities

Sicilian Eggplant is an annual vegetable plant that is commonly grown for its edible qualities, although it does have ornamental merits as well. It produces purple oval eggplants (which are technically 'berries') with deep purple overtones and creamy white flesh which are typically harvested when mature. The eggplants have a mild taste and a firm texture.

The eggplants are most often used in the following ways:

- Eating When Cooked/Prepared
- Cooking
- Baking
- Sauces

Planting & Growing

Sicilian Eggplant will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. When planted in rows, individual plants should be spaced approximately 24 inches apart. Because of its vigorous growth habit, it may require staking or supplemental support. This fast-growing vegetable plant is an annual, which means that it will grow for one season in your garden and then die after producing a crop.

This plant can be integrated into a landscape or flower garden by creative gardeners, but is usually grown in a designated vegetable garden. It should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone over the growing season to conserve soil moisture. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Sicilian Eggplant is a good choice for the vegetable garden, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.

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