

BURUNDIAN EGGPLANT

SOLANUM AETHIOPICUM

This large, bushy bitter eggplant originates from Burundi and Rwanda and is named for a traditional dance from the region. The eggplant will begin as a pale green and ripen to a bright, pearly white when ready for harvest. The plants become quite large with broad leaves, so staking or tying is recommended for longer growing seasons.



SEEDING

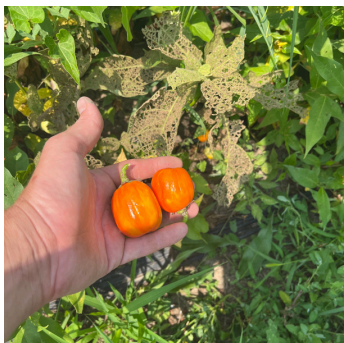
- Seeds can be found at the True Love Seeds. Scan the QR code to view and purchase.
- Greenhouse Start Date: February 27
- 20 Blocker Soil Blocks (handheld, ¾")
- Up pot to (1 ⅞ "x 1 ¾")12 soil blocker by March 10
- Water twice per day



PLANTING

- Space 18 inches apart in a single row, two rows per bed
- Use 12-inch-spaced drip irrigation, 2-3 times per week
- Plant into Bio360 or straw mulch
- 60 days to maturity, stake / weave plants in first month for stability
- Plants should be covered for the first month to avoid flea beetle pressure in the midwest

Plant in Field:
May 20th



HARVESTING

- Harvest with snips at the end of the fruit stem, cutting where the stem meets the plant. Excess stem can be trimmed afterwards for more efficient storage
- Harvest when the fruit is totally white and quite firm. Green, unripe fruit is edible but generally not preferred. Pale red fruit is overripe but ideal for seed-saving

WASHING + PACKING

Place fruits in a single layer on wash table to reduce bruising, spray thoroughly, and turn fruits periodically to ensure proper cleanliness. Leave the fruit to air-dry. If fruits aren't dirty, washing is optional. Store fruit in a covered container, packaged or bulk. Once washed and packed, eggplants should be stored in a cooler at 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

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