

family  
**Vegetable  
Garden**  
series

EXTENSION BULLETIN E-824 (20)

# Peppers and Eggplants

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## VARIETY!



Peppers and eggplants are tasty and nutritious. These "vegetables" are really fruits! They come in a variety of colors, shapes, sizes and tastes. Plant sweet or hot peppers, bell or banana shapes. Try purple eggplant with large or small-sized fruits.

## FAIR WEATHER FRIENDS

Both peppers and eggplants need a long, warm growing season. Set transplants in the garden after all danger of frost (May 20 to June 1). Remember, they won't grow well when temperatures are below 50°F and are injured by the lightest frost.

## RECOMMENDED VARIETIES Days from transplanting to harvest in ( ).

### Eggplants:

Burpee Hybrid (70)  
Black Magic (73)  
Jersey King (75)  
Classic (76)  
Black Beauty (80)

### Peppers: Sweet

\* Canape (62)  
Vinedale (62)  
\* Bell Boy (70)  
\* Midway (72)  
\* California Wonder (74)  
\* Yolo Wonder (76)  
\* Keystone Resistant Giant (85)

### Hot

Hot Portugal (64)  
Hungarian Wax (65)  
Rumanian Wax (70)  
Large Red Cherry (72)

\* means resistant to mosaic virus of pepper.

**DO NOT BUY PLANTS WITH FLOWERS OR FRUIT ON THEM BECAUSE YIELDS WILL BE REDUCED.**

## TRANSPLANTING



1. Be careful not to injure roots when transplanting into the garden. Transfer entire root ball from container to soil without breaking apart. To do this, water the plant thoroughly before removing from container.

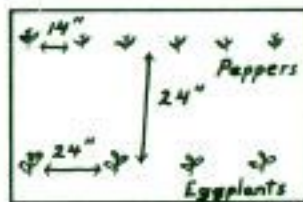


2. Set plants  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deeper in the soil than they were growing in containers. (Peat pots don't need to be removed, but pot must be completely buried.)



3. Water plants, preferably with a starter fertilizer solution.

4. Place pepper plants 14 to 18 inches apart in row and eggplants 24 to 30 inches apart. Leave 24 to 30 inches between rows.



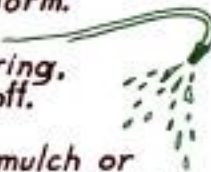
## SOME BASICS

**Soil** — Plant peppers and eggplants in full sun and in a well-drained soil.



**Fertilizer** — Before planting, work in 2 pounds (4 cups) of 5-20-20 fertilizer per 100 square feet of soil. Sprinkle a high nitrogen fertilizer 4 inches from plants after fruits begin to form.

**Water** — Water plants, especially during flowering, to prevent blossoms from dropping off.



**Weeding** — Keep plants weeded, or apply a mulch or black plastic to save work and help keep moisture in soil.

## CONTAINERS

Peppers and eggplants grow well in containers (5-gallon container or larger). See No. 12 in this series: Space Saving Ideas.



## HARVESTING

Pick fruits when ready so new ones will form. Leave a little stem on fruits when cutting. Use shears or a knife. Pulling may injure plants.

### Peppers

Sweet or Hot — Harvest when crisp and firm and full size.

- Pick when either green or yellow.
- Or wait till they turn red. Most peppers will turn red at maturity. At this stage, they are sweeter and more mellow.
- A few varieties change from green to yellow at maturity. Others are yellow from the start and never change color.



- If HOT peppers have not ripened before frost, pull entire plant and hang by roots in basement. Peppers will ripen on plant.

### Eggplants

- Pick when skin is deep purple and shiny, but before it becomes dull. Harvest when fruits are about  $\frac{2}{3}$  grown (about 6 to 8 inches for standard varieties). If you wait too long, seeds turn dark and bitter.



## STORAGE

- Store peppers and eggplants in the refrigerator.
- You can dry sweet and hot peppers for winter use (see No. 11 in this series. *Drying and Storing Vegetables*).
- To freeze peppers, remove seeds and freeze whole or chopped.
- They can also be pickled.



TO FREEZE PEPPERS—



TAKE OUT SEEDS



CHOP—OR  
FREEZE WHOLE



Eggplant can be frozen after it is fully cooked.



## PROBLEMS

**Disease:** Grow resistant varieties to prevent disease. Also avoid planting peppers, eggplants, tomatoes and potatoes in the same place in which any of the others have grown because they are injured by many of the same pests which live in the soil.

**Insects:** If they become a problem, see *Extension Bulletin E-760 (b)* or contact your County Extension Agent.



- KEYS** • Plant after all danger of frost.
- TO** • Start from transplants.
- SUCCESS** • Keep soil moist, especially during flowering.

*Other bulletins in this series provide additional information on vegetable gardening.*

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