



In small gardens, squash or pumpkins are sometimes planted in the early corn to save space. This practice proves satisfactory only when the soil is sufficiently well fertilized and enough water is available. In a dry season, however, both crops will be inferior. This should not be practiced with popcorn since it must mature on the stalk and will compete with the squash or pumpkins for water, sunlight, and fertilizer.

### **CUCUMBER**

The cucumber is a warm weather crop which prefers a rich sandy loam or loamy sand containing an abundance of organic matter and plenty of fertilizer. There are two kinds of cucumbers: those developed for pickling and those developed for use in salads, known as slicers. Gynoecious and monoecious types are available. Gynoecious types have all female flowers and produce more concentrated and earlier fruit.

Cucumber should be planted to one side of the garden in rows or hills spaced 4 to 6 feet apart. Avoid soils that crust after rain. Sow 8 to 10 seeds per hill or 4 to 5 seeds per foot of row. Thin plants sown in rows to 1 per foot. Thinned plants can be transplanted. Plant when the soil temperature is above 60°F, usually after June 1 in central Michigan. To keep vines producing, pick regularly, especially with pickles.



**EGGPLANT**

Eggplant is a warm season crop requiring a growing season of 70 to 80 days. It prefers a fairly rich, warm, sandy soil and responds well to irrigation and applications of a complete fertilizer.

Eggplants do not transplant easily but should be started indoors in late March and transplanted in late May. Sow seeds  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch deep. Temperatures between 70° and 90°F are necessary for seedling emergence. Thin or transplant to spacings of 24 to 30 inches in rows 2 to 2½ feet apart. Do not disturb the root system when transplanting. Harvest the fruit while it is still shiny and on the young side, about  $\frac{2}{3}$  its full size.

### **ENDIVE**

Endive is a cool season crop grown for salads and greens. It will tolerate light frost and should be grown for fall use. Endive prefers a warm, moist, well-drained soil and responds well to fertilizer, irrigation, and cultivation. Cultural requirements are the same as for lettuce, but endive is less sensitive to heat than lettuce.

Sow 2 or 3 seeds per inch in rows 1 to 1½ feet apart. Sow seeds  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deep. Leaves can be blanched by gathering and tying them loosely together when nearly full grown. Leaves should be dry when tied.

### **KALE**

Kale is a cool weather crop having the same cultural requirements as cabbage. It is a member of the cabbage family but does not head and should be grown for fall and winter use. It is grown for greens and is one of the best sources of vitamins and minerals in the garden.

Sow 1 or 2 seeds per inch,  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 inch deep, in rows spaced 1½ to 2 feet apart. Plant in late June or July. Thin to spacings of 8 to 15 inches. Old kale is tough and stringy. The flavor is improved by light frost. A light mulch of straw may be used to extend the harvest season into winter.

### **KOHLRABI**

Kohlrabi is a cool-season crop grown for its thickened stem. It is a short-season crop and is best grown during the cool days of fall. Kohlrabi should be harvested while young and tender, about 2 or 3 inches in diameter. Rapid and continuous growth improves its tenderness. Large stems become woody.

Kohlrabi prefers a rich, moist, well-cultivated soil and can be planted in late March or late June, or started early in a hotbed or greenhouse and transplanted like cabbage. Sow 1 or 2 seeds per inch in rows 1½ to 2 feet apart. Thin to 4 to 8 inches apart. Successive plantings at 2-week intervals will extend the harvest season.