Florida Market Eggplant

Solanum melongena 'Florida Market'



Florida Market Eggplant fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Group/Class: Heirloom

Description:

A wonderful heirloom variety producing good yields of large, 9-10" long fruit; thriving in heat and humidity, this selection features dark purple, teardrop shaped eggplants with creamy delicious interiors; superb quality for frying, stuffing and grilling

Edible Qualities

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

The eggplants are most often used in the following ways:

- Eating When Cooked/Prepared
- Cooking
- Baking
- Pickling
- Freezing

Planting & Growing

Florida Market 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 18 inches apart. 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 may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. This plant is a heavy feeder that requires frequent fertilizing throughout the growing season to perform at its best. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America, and it is considered by many to be an heirloom variety.

Florida Market 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.