

EGGPLANT

A BELOVED BIG BERRY WITH GLOBAL FLAVOR

The **eggplant**, also called *Solanum melongena*, is native to Southeast Asia, but is grown around the world. It's especially popular in Asia and the Mediterranean.

Two other **eggplant** species, scarlet eggplant (*Solanum aethiopicum*) and gboma eggplant (*Solanum macrocarpon*), are grown in Africa.

Though used as a vegetable, botanically the **eggplant** is a fruit – a berry to be precise.

From white to purple and almost every shade in between, **eggplants** come in a wide variety of beautiful colors.

It got its name from a white, egg-shaped variety, but we also call this crop brinjal, aubergine and Guinea squash.

HOW DO YOU EAT YOUR EGGPLANT?

Eggplants can be baked, fried or boiled and feature in pickles, dips, stews and curries.



Lebanon



Italy



China



Turkey



Georgia



Balkans



India

DELICIOUS AND NUTRITIOUS



Vitamins and minerals

Vitamins B and C, and minerals such as potassium, magnesium and copper are important components of our diet.

Phytonutrients

The skin and flesh contain health-promoting phytonutrients such as sterols, alkaloids and flavonoids, which have anti-cancer, anti-obesity and antiinflammatory properties.

Dietary fiber

A 100g serving supplies 10% of your recommended daily fiber intake.

Antioxidants

Pigments in the skin are powerful antioxidants, so don't peel it!

DID YOU KNOW?

Because of their close similarity with nightshades, people once believed that the **eggplant** was poisonous.

The Italian name for **eggplant**, melanzana, was interpreted as "apple of insanity."

WHY ARE EGGPLANTS UNDER THREAT?



Eggplants have large, soft fruits and a long growing period, making them vulnerable to pests and diseases.



Extreme temperatures, drought and flooding reduce farmers' yields.



Land-use changes threaten eggplant wild relatives, and heirloom varieties are disappearing as farmers switch to higher-yielding varieties or even other crops.

THE SOLUTION? DIVERSITY.

Our climate is changing and we need to adapt **eggplant** to be more resilient to pests and diseases, drought and other stresses.

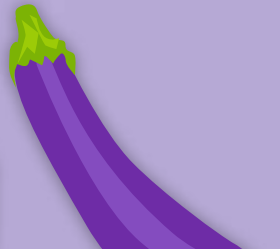
To do that, we need to safeguard and use all the diversity of eggplants in **genebanks** – for scientists, breeders and farmers.



Thai eggplant



Yellow tango eggplant



Asian long eggplant



Western eggplant

White eggplant

ENSURING ENOUGH EGGPLANT FOR EVERYONE – FOREVER

Eggplant diversity is under threat, but we developed a global conservation strategy to keep it on our plates. Here's what we need to do to keep these tasty, fleshy fruits flourishing.

Share our knowledge about eggplants more widely. Improve our databases on eggplants.

Develop better ways to control pests and diseases that attack eggplants.

Support collaborations to add missing eggplant diversity to genebanks and make it easier to share this diversity.

Evaluate eggplant diversity in genebanks for useful traits so that farmers, breeders and scientists can easily request seeds with the characteristics they need.

Encourage collaborations to use eggplant wild relatives in breeding new, more resilient varieties.

The Crop Trust, along with its strategic partners, is developing conservation strategies to protect the genetic diversity of the world's food crops. This initiative is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL).