

easy grow guide

Aubergine Amethyst

(Solanum melongena L.)



Plug Production: 288 plugs or larger

Sowing/Media:	Use a well-drained, disease-free, peat based plug medium with pH 5.5-5.8, EC <1.0 mmhos.
Germination Stage 1: (5-8 days)	Media should be saturated and humidity needs to be high until radicle emergence. Temperature should be 70-75°F (21-24°C). Light is necessary for germination but a very light covering of vermiculite or growing medium can aid humidity.
Germination Stage 2: (8-14 days)	Once radicles emerge, media temperature can be lowered to 65-70°F (18-21°C). Once cotyledons are fully open, allow the media to become moist, not saturated and maintain even moisture. Humidity can now be reduced, but only slightly. Keep light levels between 1000-2000 f.c. HID lights can be used to boost light levels during periods of low light.
Germination Stages 3&4: (14-21 days)	Temperature can now be kept around 60-70°F (16-21°C). Dry media down slightly between irrigations but avoid wilt. Increase light levels to around 2500 and 3000 f.c. This will help stop stretching. Fertilize as required using balanced calcium fertiliser such as a 14-0-14 at 50-100ppm. Keep media pH at 5.5-5.8 and EC <1.0 mmhos.

Growing On to Finish: 4" (10cm) then finish in 8" (20cm) or 10" (25cm)

Media:	Use a well-drained, disease free, peat-based growing mix with pH 5.5-6.2 and EC <0.5-1 mmhos.
Temperatures:	Day temperatures can be 60-75°F (16-24°C), night temperatures can be 50-60°F (10-15°C).
Light:	Light levels should be increased and maintained at 4000-5000 f.c.
Irrigation:	Once plants have established in the pot, allow to flag/wilt between irrigations, this will keep the plants much more compact than if never allowed to dry. To increase fruit set and yield practise this method of irrigation especially during flowering. Once majority of fruit has set, not allow to dry out – blossom end rot can occur.
Fertiliser:	Feed with 100 – 150ppm N from a balanced fertiliser such as 15-0-15, 13-2-13. Calcium is important especially during fruit development. Use a calcium based fertilizer or add to your existing fertiliser. Flush media every 3 rd or 4 th watering to avoid salt build up.
Growth Regulators:	Good moisture and fertiliser management combined with the correct light levels and temperatures should limit the need for PGRs. This variety is naturally compact. DO NOT USE
Pests:	Thrips, RSM, Whitefly, Aphid
Diseases:	Pythium, Botrytis

Plug Times:

288 plug:	18-22 days from sowing to transplant
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Transplant to Finish:

Container	Plants/Container	Transplant to green fruit (retail)	Total Crop Time
8" Pot	1 x plug	14-16 weeks	16-18 weeks
10" Pot	1 x plug	15-17 weeks	17-19 weeks

Crop times are based on optimum conditions. Alternative environmental conditions and cultural regimes can lengthen the crop times stated above.