

# Seed Saving Guide for Eggplant



- member of the *Solanaceae* Family
- ideal for beginners
- annual life cycle
- even though eggplant contains wet seeds, no fermentation is required
- keep different eggplant varieties 300-1600 feet apart
- save seed from at least 1-2 plants
- seed longevity around 4-6 years

## **To harvest seeds:**

- leave fruits on the plant past when you would normally pick them to eat
- ripe fruits turn yellowish brown & their skin toughens & dulls
- mature seeds inside are plump & hard
- they easily pull away from the plant when picked

## **To clean seeds using blender or food processor:**

- cut the fruit into cubes & process in a blender or food processor with a little water to make a slurry
- pour the seed slurry into a larger container & add more water
- agitate the watery mash to separate the seeds from the pulp; seeds settle to the bottom of the container
- remove as much of the water as possible and add fresh water; agitate the mash again to release more seeds
- eventually most of the seeds will be removed from the pulp

⇒ skip to steps a and b below

## **To clean seeds *without* using blender or food processor:**

- scoop the seeds & pulp from the fruit & place in a large bowl with water
- mature healthy seeds sink to the bottom of the bowl but the pulp & dead seeds float
- use your fingers to separate all the seeds from the pulp
- pour off the floating pulp & dead seeds but leave the mature seeds on the bottom of the bowl
- refill the bowl with fresh water & continue to separate the seeds from the pulp
- repeat this process until all the seeds are as clean as possible
- rinse the mature seeds in a strainer with water
  - a. place the strainer of seeds on a towel & let them drip dry
  - b. spread seeds out in a single layer on a ceramic plate, piece of glass, cookie sheet, screen - anything but paper - to dry in a warm location for several days

**Be sure seeds are completely dry before returning them to the Seed Library or storing them at home for yourself.**



Funding for the seed library provided by a grant from the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District.



**Growing & Seed Saving Guides researched & written by Master Gardeners of Cornell Cooperative Extension Warren County**

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