

veggies

Eggplant: New hybrids are a welcome surprise

The eggplant is catching on. This beautiful and versatile vegetable has finally won a place in the gardens and menus of America.

Few vegetables offer the culinary and display qualities of this richly-hued glossy fruit. After setting out in the garden as a transplants, the eggplant will soon begin in production of lavender blossoms. After fruit set begins, the rich purple eggplant remains a delight to the eye as it matures.

The versatility of this mildly flavored vegetable has won it a place in a world of recipes. Left to its own, the eggplant adapts to frying, baking and cooked for cold salads. When added to other fresh garden vegetables including zucchini, tomatoes and peppers, the eggplant adds a flavor distinctly different from the commonplace. Try an eggplant lasagna, hamburger medley or ratatouille, a French classic dish great hot or cold. Get out the blender for a tasty eggplant/nut spread so good recipe books call it caviar.

While the eggplant's versatility is no surprise to the cook, hybrid eggplant varieties may come as a welcome surprise to the gardener. Plant breeders have shaved as many as 18 days off harvest time for this notoriously slow-growing, heat-loving species. Eggplants Dusky and Satin Beau-

ty will be ready to harvest in 62 days after planting, while older varieties such as Black Beauty will need an average of 80 warm days 'till harvest. The development of the shorter season, high yield hybrids places them well within the garden conditions of northern growers.

Six eggplants will stretch summer menus as well as add sparkle to prepared dishes for the freezer. This space-conscious vegetable can be planted much closer together than tomatoes and will not need staking. Hybrid eggplant Slim Jim is ideal for container planters as small as 6 inches in diameter.

To nestle as many fruits as possible in the garden egg basket, try these additional cultural tips:

- Start eggplants only from transplants in the garden. Do not direct seed.
- Mulch the garden with black plastic to trap more soil heat.
- Fertilize at planting time, again when plants are half-grown and after harvesting the first fruit.
- Plant only after last frost date in your area.
- Harvest fruit when glossy and approximately 6-8 inches long. Use knife or pruning shears to remove.

GROWING PAINS?

small business owners
restaurant & fast food owners

Want to Expand, But Think you Can't Afford It?

Thermodyne Construction Co. will do its best to prove you wrong! We are a Design and Build General Contracting Firm committed to giving you the most for your dollar.

By assembling a group of quality subcontractors who have agreed to work at the lowest possible prices, through careful design and coordination of construction operations and keeping our overhead lower than most other contractors, we can offer excellent prices on commercial projects.

More reasons to Build Now

1. **Save Money** - In spite of high interest rates, you will actually save money by building now. Most material and labor costs have held constant over the past two years, while some have actually declined. When work becomes more plentiful, many construction costs will increase 10-20% virtually overnight.
2. **No labor or Material Shortages** - Construction will progress much faster than normal. The quicker we finish your job, the sooner you can utilize the extra space and the less interest you will pay out before realizing a return on your investment.
3. **Reduced business Interruption** - Through careful planning and scheduling our work to your slow periods, we can reduce business interruption. We will work with you.

So, whether you are just considering some minor remodeling to use existing space more efficiently, or you would like us to design and construct a new building to meet increasing demands, Thermodyne Construction Co. can give you more value for your dollar. Call now for more information.

Experienced in Vacant Store & Gas Station Conversions

THERMODYNE CONSTRUCTION CO.
591-3773

SHADE TREES

- Norway Maple • Red Maple
- Crimson King Maple
- Marshall Seedless Ash
- Skyline Locust • Sunburst Locust • Mt. Ash • London
- Birch Clumps (nice)
- Silver Maple

ORNAMENTAL TREES

- Weeping Cherry
- Kwanzen Cherry
- Crabapples (including Red Jade, Sargent, Selkirk, Zumi and Snowdrift)

JUNIPERS

- Gold Coast • Sargent
- Tams • Adorra • Blue Rug
- Procumbens • Pfitzer
- Compacta

HANGING BASKETS

- Verbena • Coleus • Ivy
- Fuchsia • Bridal Veil Plant

GREENHOUSE READY FOR SPRING
Our large quantity of quality stock includes

YEWS

- Hickel • Desformis
- Brown • Pyramidal

ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS

- Evergreen • Exbury
- Azaleas • Burning Bush
- Euonymus • Red Twig Dogwood • Cotoneaster
- Privet • Forsythia
- Golden Vicary • Pteris Japonica • Potentilla
- Purpleleaf Plum • Sumac
- Rhododendron • Aborvitae
- Viburnum • Weigela
- Alberta Spruce • Mugholo Pine

GROUND COVERS

- Pachysandra • Myrtle
- Ajuga • Purpleleaf Wintercreeper

UPRIGHT JUNIPERS

- Blue Haven • Keteeri
- Sky Rocket • Mt. Patton
- Pathfinder



Art Plucinski & Sons NURSERY

Our Greenhouse will be stocked with:
Annual Flowering Plants: Begonias
• Coleus • Geraniums • Dahlis
• Verbena • Impatiens • Marigolds
• Portulaca • Alyssum • Dusty Miller

Buy direct from our 40 acre nursery
and SAVE 10% through April 22.
Package Deals: Bring your neighbors
and get a tremendous discount.



17448 26 Mile Road
Washington, MI
Phone 781-4122

26 Mile	Nursery
Van Dyke	Romeo Plank
	North Ave.

WE DO LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Just bring in your mortgage
survey or dimensional drawing
and pictures for a charge start-
ing at \$25.00 we will design a
landscape just for you.