Ping Tung Eggplant

Solanum melongena 'Ping Tung'



Ping Tung Eggplant fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: PingTung eggplant

Group/Class: Hierloom

Description:

A beautiful heirloom variety with an upright, bushy habit that requires staking to ensure straight fruit; produces long, 14 inch long deep purple glossy fruit with a mild, tender and sweet flavor; perfect for frying, stir frys, roasting and grilling

Edible Qualities

Ping Tung Eggplant is an annual vegetable plant that is commonly grown for its edible qualities, although it does have ornamental merits as well. It produces deep purple long eggplants (which are technically 'berries') with a white blush and 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

Planting & Growing

Ping Tung Eggplant will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. When planted in rows, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart. Because of its vigorous growth habit, it may require staking or supplemental support. 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 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.

Ping Tung 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.