## Basic Care

### Sun
- Full exposure for at least 6-8 hours a day

### Water
- Water regularly, especially when young, to maintain consistent soil moisture.
- To water: pour or spray gently around the base of the eggplant, not on the leaves.
- If you have access to mulch, a layer on top can help keep moisture in the soil.
- Do not overwater - if the plant sits in water, it can cause disease.

### Harvesting
- Each eggplant variety will have a different size/age of maturity. Don’t let the eggplant stay on the plant after it reaches maturity or it will start to get tough.
  - Smaller eggplants will be more tender and sweet, and can be harvested before they’re fully mature.
- To harvest: Use clippers or scissors to remove the eggplant between the fruit and the branch it’s growing off of. Pulling the eggplant risks damaging the plant.

### Storing
- Eggplants won’t store very long, so eat them when you harvest them!
- If you need to store, keep in the refrigerator for up to one week.

## Common Problems

### Plants Not Watered Enough
- Plants may have trouble establishing roots if they don’t receive enough water when they’re young. Water evenly and often to keep the soil soft for root growth.

### Eggplant Rotting on the Plant
- For eggplant fruit rotting on the plant before it’s fully mature - remove any diseased fruits/plants, and harvest eggplants when younger to avoid rot.