

Day3Seeds

Seed for Future Generations



2020 Eggplant Trial

Eggplant (*solanum malangena*) aka – Brinjal, Aubergine, Guinea Squash



Eggplant is considered by many a ‘minor crop’ vegetable, but it is quite treasured by many people who live in warm and humid areas, especially in Asia and Africa. Often it is considered a ‘poor mans’ crop (as is okra), yet it has become a great choice for many great recipes {like Eggplant Parmesan Sandwich – on Kaiser Roll; dipped in egg batter and grilled, bread grilled with olive oil/butter, a slice of Asiago cheese, tomato sauce, sprinkled with Parmesan, and shredded leaves of fresh basil – YUM!}

(*Solanum malangena*) specie originates from India and the region. The name ‘eggplant’ is used in English, perhaps, because when first seen by Europeans to India they saw the

types which are small, egg-shaped fruit. It is assumed that Arabic traders carried seeds of many types from India to Africa and Spain about two thousand years ago. Wild types contain glycoalkaloids, which causes a bitter taste and are useful in some African cuisines.

Eggplant shapes vary from small berry-size, egg-shape, long-thin, teardrop, to round. Plant types range from short bushy to erect tree-types. Fruit colors cover a rainbow of white, yellow, green, red, purple, and striped mixtures of these.

The uses of food are broad and cover many cultural cuisines. Boiled, fried, baked, sautéed, stuffed, stews – yet very seldom raw. The fruits are a good source of Vitamin C and the mineral manganese, and it is quite high in fiber.

D3S included plantings of eggplant in our summer trials. In 2020 we grew three varieties for seed increases – Special (large black teardrop fruit), Ping Tung (elongated purple fruit), and Listada de Gandia (round white/purple striped fruit). We trialed in short row plantings over 20 varieties from areas of the world, to compare and evaluate for future use – Seed for Future Generations!

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Name: Black Egg

Type: Home Garden

Plant Description: dwarf plant, open habit, dark purple stems, dark green leaves, violet blooms, well suited for container or small spaces

Maturity Range: Early to Midseason

Fruit Color, size, quantity: Dark purple/black, small teardrop 4-5" long x 2-3" wide, will bear over a long period if fruit harvested as they mature for consumption

Quality Notes: Nice eating quality, small size allows for one or two-person servings, the skin is thin for a purple type

Sample Source: Seed Savers Exchange

Plans: Save seed; market as a Home Garden item for containers, raised beds, and small spaces. Sample to ministries of small plot gardeners.

W's: What I see in this variety is the uniqueness of dwarf attractive plant with appealing dark pendulous fruit just waiting to be harvested for my meal. It tastes good and is of a size suited for one meal, fried or mixed into a casserole. Persons who like to blend garden veggies with flowers will find this a good item to include... not overpowering in size and space required. I will share the seed of this variety to those many persons **who** have little space to grow, yet deserve the fresh quality of nice eating eggplant.



Name: Brinjal

Type: Home Garden

Plant description: Medium height open plant with green stems and green leaves.

Maturity range - midseason

Fruit color, size, and quantity: Elongated blocky striped violet/white 6" long x 2" wide

Quality notes: good eating quality when young - matures quickly

Sample Source: Jeremiah Gettle/ Baker Creek Seeds

Plans: Save some seed for future trials

W's: What I see is an attractive plant with pretty looking fruit... and if picked at the right time, eats well. I am not ready to recommend this to active gardeners **who** want a nice eggplant experience, in the garden and the kitchen.



Name: Cesky Rany

Type: Home Garden

Plant Description: Short bush, violet stems and dark green leaves, purple blooms

Maturity range: Early to midseason

Fruit color, size, quantity: Purple round/teardrop shape, 2-3" wide x 3-4" long, purple calyx with no spines, nice yields if harvested regularly... enough for a nice serving.

Quality Notes: Has nice interior quality, and flavor typical eggplant taste, the skin may need to be peeled before frying or baking due to toughness

Sample Source: Seed Savers Exchange

Plans: Save seed, trial in containers and small plot garden spaces

W's: *What* I see is a small plant with a strong habit to produce useful fruit in a small space. And, I see a parent line to be used in making future crosses toward a more refined fruit than is presently on this line. Container gardens are important for the many millions who lack open land for traditional gardens.



Name: Chang Chieh Tzu

Type: Home Garden teardrop

Plant description: Open Bush plant, green stems, green leaves, no spines

Maturity range: Medium early

Fruit Color, size, quantity: purple skin, small teardrop 3" wide x 5" long, rather low yield but might improve if grown in containers and harvested regularly, calyx has no spines

Quality notes: slight dullness to fruit color; slight greenish tint interior when cut open

Sample Source: Seed Savers Exchange

Plans: Save seed - re-trial in containers and raised bed gardens.

W's: *What* I see is not all that impressive or inspiring... but when looking closer I see some potential as a parent line to improve other container types. It may prove to be a nice strong parent to give a better plant to other dwarf types we are experimenting with.



Name: Chinese

Type: Fresh Market and Home Garden

Plant Description: Tall bush, purple stems, and purplish leaves, no spines on leaves, violet blooms

Maturity range: Midseason

Fruit color, size, quantity: dark purple long curved Asian type 6-7" long x 2" wide, good sets.

Quality notes: taller plant than Frank Ling, the fruit does not drag in soil keeping blossom end from getting messy ground marks.

Sample Source: Seed Savers Exchange.

Plans: Save seed, make selections, retrial, and send seed to cooperators.

W's: **What** I see is a nice tall plant with good yields of nice quality fruit... and no ground marks on the blossom end of first fruits. I also view an average length which is a bit longer than Ping Tung (as standard Asian purple type)... so we should trial it again in the next year(s). This type is very popular with many home gardeners who like nice eating quality.



Name: Ebony King

Type: Fresh Market and Home Garden

Plant Description: bushy plant, green stems, green leaves, violet bloom

Maturity Range: Main season

Fruit color, size, quantity: large round deep Purple/Black up to 12" across, green calyx with spines

Quality Notes: thicker skin, OK quality, Nice marketing appearance for local farm market, rivals Black Beauty for type

Sample Source: Seed Savers Exchange

Plans: Save seed; sample seed packets to cooperators, offer as Bedding Plant

W's: **What** I see is a rather short bush plant with enormous fruit... though not that many of them. It is attractive and will make very nice slices for eggplant parmesan sandwich. **Who:** I view this as more of a home garden variety than commercial due to type of tight bush plant, spines on the calyx, and rather low yields.



Name: Extra Long Purple

Type: Fresh Market and Home Garden Asian type

Plant description: Tall open upright plant, purple stems, dark green leaves purple blooms

Maturity range: mid to main season

Fruit color, size, quantity: Dark purple long fruit 1.5 - 2" wide x 8 - 10" long, good sets and yield capacity if picked at younger stages rather than allowing the fruit to get older and set seeds.

Quality Notes: nice appearance though a bit curved, good interior quality.

Sample Source: Seed Savers Exchange

Plans: Save seed, sample to cooperators working in Asian markets, make selections for fruit straightness, and maintain other qualities present.

W's: What I see is a nice selection made for specific needs or desire for long fruit with deep purple color while keeping the desired eating quality. Selection work should continue toward a tall strong plant to keep the straight(er) fruit off the ground (to avoid ground marks on blossom end for market acceptance).



Name: Foo Chow

Type: Fresh Market and Home Garden

Plant description: Short bushy plant, green branches, and green leaves, violet blooms

Fruit color, size, quantity: Striped purple/white round 3-4" round, moderate yield capacity due to smallish plant, spines on green calyx

Quality notes: OK interior quality, OK yield for such a small plant, nice overall fruit appearance.

Sample Source: Seed Savers Exchange

Plans: save seed, sample to cooperators, and retrial in containers

W's: What I see as I viewed this variety is a very compact plant with very attractive striped fruit. I wonder what the 'selection' was made for and from what region of Asia... thinking that this variety may grow and have more benefits in that selection zone than it appears to have in southeast Mo. I see the potential to trial with cooperators and keep making selections.



Name: Frank Ling

Type: Fresh Market and Home Garden Asian type

Plant description: tall bush, open habit, purple stem with purplish leaves, violet blooms, no spines on leaves.

Maturity range: Mid Season

Fruit Color, size, quantity: dark Purple Asian type 6-7" long x 2" wide, decent yields and easy to snip or pull off ready fruit

Quality notes: Nice quality if picked young, notes some bitterness if allowed to mature too long; some variability among plants for shape and straight/curve

Sample Source: Jeremiah Gettle of Baker Creek Seed

Plans: Save seed and make selections

W's: **What** I see is a nice item collected for its nice appearance and good plant. The seed I have received has a few off types so with a bit of selection work the line may be more uniform. **Who:** We shall retriail and offer to ministries working among Asian people groups.



Name: Hawaiian Green

Type: Fresh Market and Home Garden

Plant description: short bush, green stem, and leaves, violet blooms

Maturity range: midseason

Fruit color, size, quantity: light green, mostly round (with some ruffled at blossom end) 5" x 6", green calyx with nubby spines, OK yields

Quality notes: Tender skin makes this a local market item or home garden. Not quite as a uniform for shape as is Jade Sweet. Has taste more like normal eggplant and not as sweet as other green types tested in this trial (Louisiana Green Oval and Jade Sweet).

Sample Source: Jeremiah Gettle / Baker Creek < U of Hawaii

Plans: save some seed for future comparative trials

W's: **What** I see is a line which could use some purity selection work, and perhaps at one time was much nicer than what I viewed in this trial. The short bush plant makes finding the fruit a bit of a chore, and the spines on the calyx make it a bit testy to accomplish without scratching other fruit in the same basket.



Name: Italian Pink

Type: Fresh Market and Home Garden

Plant description: Tall open habit, pink/violet stems, green leaves with some spines, violet blooms

Maturity range: Main Season

Fruit color, size, quantity: Purple round fruit with white accents, 6-8" wide, very good appearance, some spines on green calyx.

Quality notes: VERY good eating quality, very attractive exterior with quite tender skin (which may hurt its shelf life to more than local markets) It may need some structural support for tall branches to hold fruit off ground later in the season... blooms and sets well as long as water and nutrition available late in the season.

Sample Source: Seed Savers Exchange < Judith Conway.

Plans: Save seed, market as a bedding plant, and seed packet samples to interested collaborators.

W's: What I see is a very attractive plant for its unique stem color and contrast to the green leaves. The open tall habit makes it easy to view fruit as it matures and when ready to harvest easy to reach and clip off the plant. **Who:** The beautiful exterior color makes it really special to the eye, and the eating quality is very nice. Another fine example of generations of seed selection work of eggplant by Italian gardeners.



Name: Italian White

Type: Home Garden Asian

Plant Description: dwarf open plant, green stems, and leaves; violet flowers

Maturity range: early season

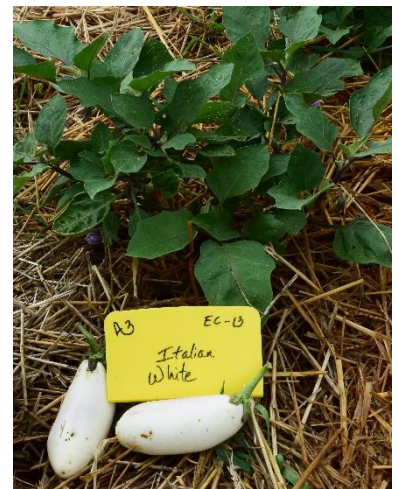
Fruit color, size, quality: white long Asian type, 2" wide x 5" long, spines on the green calyx, low yield capacity

Quality notes: unique plant for patio pots, though eating quality is not special, and lifespan is short for yielding.

Sample Source: Seed Savers Exchange < Thomas Jende < Joseph Greco

Plans: save some seed for future crossing work

W's: What I see is a unique dwarf plant with the capacity to be useful for breeding future containers and small plot varieties with white or striped fruit. It may serve the small space gardens of many **who** have very limited land or growing space. Saving seed of unique items like this is important for the diversity required in breeding toward special needs.



Name: Jade Sweet

Type: Local Fresh Market and Home Garden

Plant description: short bush, green stems, and leaves, white blooms, some spines on the back of leaves.

Maturity range: Mid-season

Fruit color, size, quantity: green oval fruit of 4'6" across, 4-8 fruit per plant.

Quality Notes: Quite sweet compared to all other eggplants in trial, thin and tender skin (does not need to be peeled before frying or baking), some spines on the calyx and underside of leaves may cause some scratching when looking for fruit and harvesting. Thin and tender skin will limit the time from the plant to local markets... will shrivel within a day or two of harvesting.

Sample Source: Seed Savers Exchange

Plans: Save seed, make available as seed packets for trials, produce plants for HG and Bedding Plants. Make selections away from spines on leaves and calyx.

W's: What I see is a compact attractive plant that will do well in small space gardens and raised bed garden plots. The fruit is a surprise for its dull green color but then appreciate the tender skin and very nice eating quality - the finest eggplant I have ever eaten (fried and baked). This will taste different than many Asian types or more familiar purple-skinned types of the fresh market. This is unique and quite tasty; the spines on the leaves and calyx, and tender skin make this a variety most likely never to be in commercial produce markets.



Name: Kaala Chinense

Type: Fresh Market and Home Garden Asian-type

Plant Description: tall bushy, purple stem, dark green leaves, violet blooms

Maturity Range: mid-season

Fruit color, size, quantity: long purple Asian type 6-8" long x 2" wide, purple calyx with no spines, good sets of 1-2 fruit per cluster

Quality notes: Nice item for a plant, fruit appearance, yields, and eating qualities.

Sample Source: Baker Creek Seeds

Plans: Save seed, sample to cooperators especially those who work among Asian people groups or countries

W's: What I see when I view this variety is a very nice growing plant with open habit making it easier for me to see and then harvest fruit. The fruit is mostly straight and appealing to the marketing eye when laid on display.



Name: Kamari

Type: Fresh Market and Home Garden

Plant description: tall upright open, green stem and green leaves, violet bloom

Maturity: Early - Midseason

Fruit color, size, quantity: striped violet/white long and bulb 5" long x 2" wide, green calyx w/no spines

Quality notes: good eating quality if picked young - matures quickly

Sample Source: Seed Savers Exchange > Will Bonsall from Sri Lanka

Plans: Save Seed - make selections, retrial, and test with cooperators

W's: **What** I see is a nice plant with mostly uniform blocky long fruit which are easily packed for market. Eating quality is nice for the home kitchen garden. **Who:** Attractive fruit on a nice plant would make this variety a complement to most any intercropped garden space.



Name: Lao Lavender

Type: HG Pickling

Plant Description: Bushy, well-branched, green stems, green leaves. violet blooms

Maturity range: midseason

Fruit color, size, and quantity: small round violet/white 2-3" across, 3-6 fruit on each branch.

Quality notes: Pickling type, very uniform in round shape,

Sample Source: Seed Savers Exchange

Plans: keep small amounts via seed saving and selection for potential future needs.

W's: **What** I see is a nice compact strong plant with uniform small striped fruit. I am not familiar with pickled eggplant so have not yet attempted (but plan to). **Who:** somewhere in the world of eggplant consumers are those who like to pickle this unique small fruit... and I am searching.



Name: Listatda de Gandia

Type: Fresh Market and Home Garden

Plant description: short well-branched bush, green stems and green leaves, violet blooms

Maturity range: mid-main season

Fruit color, size, quality: Purple and white striped, medium oval, good yields, green calyx with no spines

Quality notes: attractive fruit with elongated alternating stripes on shiny thin skin... tender and tasty (when fried or baked in lasagna)

Sample source: Seed Savers Exchange < Gandia, Spain

Plans: produce seed and plants for home gardens and bedding plants

W's: **What** I see is a good home garden plant with very attractive fruit of excellent eating quality... making it a special variety worthy of sharing. **Who:** Those who appreciate growing and enjoy the eating of fresh eggplant... just about anywhere.



Name: Long Lavender

Type: Fresh Market and Home Garden Asian type

Plant Description: Strong tall bushy plant, Green branches green leaves, violet blooms, no spines on leaves

Maturity Range: Mid-Main Season

Fruit color, size, quantity: long thin white w/lavender striping, 1-1.5" wide x 4-8" long, good set and yield capacity

Quality notes: tender skin, nice flavor, and interior qualities.

Sample Source: Seed Savers Exchange < Paul Gardner

Plans: Save seed, market via bedding plants and sample packets seed to cooperators



W's: **What** I see as I view this exceptional variety is very nice to the eye, especially one like me who has harvested eggplant for many years now (since I was in my teens in the 1960s). The plant bears fruit easy to see, and easily clipped off strong branches and fruit with long stems. I can see that many persons will also like these qualities and want to grow for themselves. I compare this variety to the very good hybrid 'Bride' from Known You Seed company of South Korea.

Name: Long Purple

Type: Fresh Market and Home Garden Asian

Plant description: Bushy, green stems, green branches, violet blooms

Maturity Range: mid to main season

Fruit color, size, quantity: long purple Asian type 4-6" long x 1.5-2" wide, moderate yield capacity.

Quality notes: Attractive plant, the fruit of moderate eating quality

Sample Source: Gourdgeous Farm < Sun Seeds

Plans: save seed, retrial as a standard check item

W's: **What** I see when viewing this old standard variety (to US market) is a bushy plant with hard-to-find fruit of moderate yields, and OK flavor. It is not a variety which 'grabs' me for anything really noteworthy or exceptional but is necessary to keep trialing as a standard to compare against.



Name: Louisiana Green Oval

Type: Fresh Market and Home Garden

Plant description: Upright bush, green stems, and leaves, no spines on leaves, white blooms

Maturity Range: main season

Fruit color, size, quantity: light green teardrop 3-4" wide x 5-7" long, moderate yields, no spines on green calyx

Quality notes: Thin-skinned, non-bitter, nice eating quality, will have a short shelf life due to thin tender skin...

Sample Source: Seed Savers Exchange < Glecklers Seedsmen

Plans: save seed, retrial for bedding plants and Home garden use

W's: **What** I see is a very nice plant with moderate yields of hi-quality eating fruit which satisfies a specific demographic market that really likes its eggplant. It is easy to prepare for frying and baking, and due to its very tender skin, it need not be peeled before eating. I view this variety as one which should be tried in almost any area with a longer growing season.



Name: Melonzana Luna Di Chioccia

Type: Home Garden

Plant description: short bush, green stems with green leaves. violet blooms

Maturity: early - midseason

Fruit color, size, quantity: elongated blocky purple 2" wide x 7-8" long, green calyx no spines, moderate yield capacity

Quality notes: fruit matures quickly if left on the plant too long

Sample Source: Seed Savers Exchange

Plans: Save some seed for future trials and potential breeding crosses

W's: **What** I see is a plant most likely selected for a specific region or purpose or market. It does not show in this trial any exceptional traits to merit promotion to our own markets, but this does not mean it is not worthy of seed saving or future trialing, which we shall do.



Name: Prelane

Type: Fresh Market and Home Garden

Plant Description: Short well-branched bush, Green stems and Green leaves, violet blooms

Maturity range: early - midseason

Fruit Color, size, quantity: long blocky purple fruit 2" wide x 6" long, green calyx with no spines, good yields of uniform shape and size.

Quality Notes: Nice interior and good eating quality, matures quickly on the plant, bitter when more mature.

Sample Source: Seed Savers Exchange

Plans: Save seed for sampling, and future crossing

W's: **What** I see is a nice plant with very uniform fruit of a quite decent set. I see that this variety may be well suited for large containers and small space gardens for local and home consumption. It is worthy to be trialed in many regions where eggplant is desired.



Name: Romanesca aka - Tonda Sfumata di Rosa
Type: Fresh Market and Home Garden
Plant description: Bushy habit, green stems, green leaves, violet blooms

Maturity range: Midseason

Fruit color, size, quantity: Purple with white undertones, especially around calyx, Round 5-8" across, may have lower yield capacity due to the size of the plant and larger-sized fruit. Green calyx with nubby spines.

Quality Notes: Very attractive, Very nice interior and taste has a slight sweetness.

Sample Source: Seed Savers Exchange

Plans: Save Seed, make selections for type and fruit sets. Offer as plants for local bedding plant sales and seed packet samples to ministries desirous of this type.

W's: What I see is a very nice selection made by people with a specific appreciation for a beautiful appearance and great taste of eggplant. **Who:** Italians and other Mediterranean countries have grown and consumed eggplant for many generations, and have made some exceptional selections... this is one of many others.



Name: Special

Type: Fresh Market and Home Garden

Plant description: Tall branched bush, green stems, green leaves

Maturity Range: Main Season

Fruit Color, Size, Quantity: Dark Purple with green calyx and no spines, Large teardrop shape 10-12" long x 4-7" wide; heavy set with large yield potential

Quality notes: skin is tough for commercial shipping and handling, type well established in the US produce market for many decades, Standard accepted eating quality.

Sample Source: Gourdgeous Farm < Mueller Family < Harris Seeds

Plans: Keep saving seed for distribution and sampling; continue to produce plants for Bedding Plant trade and Home Garden use

W's: What I see is a plant which shows me its fruit without too much searching and bears singly on easy to reach branches for harvest. Useful in regions of the world where Eggplant is a commercial market item as well as home gardens. This long heavy teardrop type is marketable in Africa and a few Caribbean countries; may not be marketable in Asia region where long and thin types are preferred.



Name: Tsinan Chang Ta Chieh

Type: Home Garden

Plant Description: very short open plant, green leaves, purple stems, light violet blooms

Maturity Range: early

Fruit color, size, quantity: light purple with greening near calyx and blossom end, green calyx, teardrop shape 5" long x 3" wide

Quality Notes - nice quality interior though a bit green in color, loses tenderness of skin if matured to a larger size; has container growing potential

Sample Source: Seed Savers Exchange

Plans: save some seed, test in containers and small plot garden space

W's: *What* I see in this variety is a good early open plant for container growing, and yet I wonder if the region of Asia it was selected from has reasons and purpose not yet familiar to me... the fruit coloration does not fit my understanding as desirable for markets. I hope that after more sampling and trialing some good information will come to us in feedback reports.



*This type of trialing of a species is integral work to sharing **Seed for Future Generations**. As we make decisions about what to offer to people of assorted cultures, geography, demographic markets, and climate conditions we need to have experience of the many assorted varieties available to us for saving seed and making development selections. For instance, this eggplant trial has 25 varieties in its notes for you to review while there were another 8 varieties which I deemed as unworthy to even evaluate in written form for reasons of diseased seed, very poor plant performance, and vigor, and/or very unpalatable fruit. As for these 8 varieties they shall no longer be used in our trials or seed saved. We move forward with the 25 selected and will seek more to add in the next year(s) for future eggplant trials. Thank You for taking an interest as we strive to make good **Seed for Future Generations!***

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