

Gretel Eggplant



The Gretel eggplant has a narrow oblong shape with thin skin that is glossy white. It has a large harvest window and can be eaten from the baby to fully mature stage.

They have very few seeds and even the fully grown versions remain sweet and tender. Its delicate skin may be left on as it imparts no bitterness, but rather a pleasant chewy texture. When sauteed, grilled or roasted the interior white flesh becomes creamy, sweet and nutty. The Gretel eggplant is a newly developed member of the nightshade family or Solanaceae. It was bred by selectively removing various disadvantageous eggplant traits such as bitterness, large seed size and narrow harvest window. The Gretel eggplant is prized for its versatility and ease of preparation and the white counterpart to its purple cousin, the Hansel eggplant.



Solanum melongena 'Gretel

- **Use:** Petite fruit, petite plant, perfect for containers. Gretel has clusters of pure white, elongated teardrop shaped fruit that can be harvested in 55 days from transplanting. It is the earliest white eggplant and offers gardeners a high yield of 3-4 inch fruit with tender skin, few seeds, and the sweetest flavor. Gretel is easy to grow in containers or garden soil. Plants prefer warm growing conditions.
- For maximum fruit set, harvest the clusters of eggplant regularly. There are many creative ways to slice, marinate, grill or sauté the beautifully shaped eggplant.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Full sun and try to keep water off the leaves. Water the garden to provide a uniform moisture supply to the crop. Keep the leaves and fruit dry when watering and avoid overhead sprinkler irrigation. Water sufficiently to moisten the soil to a depth of 6 inches. The critical period for moisture is during fruit set and fruit development.
- **Growth:** Grows 4' tall and will need cage or staking for best growth. Space transplants 18" - 24" apart in well drained soil. Rows should be spaced 24" to 36" apart. Keep the soil moist but never soggy. Mulching Eggplant is very beneficial as it helps to retain moisture and keep the soil at an even temperature.
- **Hardiness/Harvest Time:** Annual / Yields in 55 days from setting out transplants
- **Fruit** Loads of tender, bitter-free 3-4" fruits on a compact 24-36" plant. You can begin to harvest when fruits are 3-4" long by 3/4-1 1/4" diameter.

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