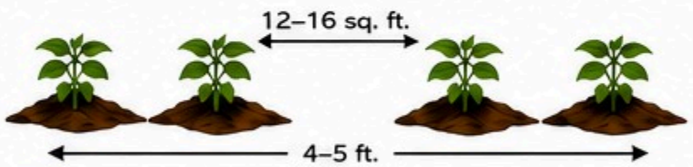
LAND PREPARATION

Limestone should be incorporated into the top 4 in. or spread over the whole cultivation at a rate of 2500 lbs. per acre on clay or Pegasse soils or 500 lbs. per acre on sandy soils. This is necessary because virtually all soils in Guyana are deficient in Calcium and the clay and Pegasse soils are very acid. This prevents the plant from absorbing nutrients and encourages fungal and bacterial diseases. Organic matter should be incorporated, within reason, the more the better. Eggplant requires good drainage, so the soil should be prepared accordingly and drains provided.



PLANTING AND SPACING

Plants require approximately 12–16 sq. ft. It is usually better to plant somewhat closer within the row with 4–5 ft. between the rows. This allows for easy access for harvesting and husbandry operations. Farmers often plant with irregular spacing, but it is much easier to manage the crop if it is planted in straight rows evenly spaced.



IRRIGATION

For any commercial-size plot, sprinkler irrigation from Caribbean Chemicals will dramatically reduce costs.



FERTILIZING

First dose at 1 week: 7.21.21, 10 bags per acre. This can be repeated every 2–3 months. Sulphate of Ammonia should be applied between these doses if the farmer observes that the plants need to be made greener. The dose of SOA applied will be at the discretion of the farmer based on the appearance of the plants.

WEED CONTROL

Fusil or Select can control grass weeds but not broadleaf weeds or sedges. Carista or Lifeline are the best options. They are non-selective and work by destroying the chlorophyll without affecting the structural integrity of the plant. If the spray touches a crop plant, it only affects the chlorophyll on the spot it contacts. It will not cause injury like Paraquat or damage roots like Glyphosate. Eggplant is a fairly long-term crop, and root growth almost ceases after flowering, so any root damage by Glyphosate can seriously reduce yield. Similarly, leaf and stem damage by Paraquat will reduce photosynthesis and increase susceptibility to diseases, making affected fruits unmarketable.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

In these longer-term crops, it is important to remember that root growth slows dramatically after flowering, so it is necessary to use a strategy to preserve the root system. This is why Quad 14 and Phortify are applied frequently, as these products stimulate the natural disease resistance of the plant, carry any applied fungicide down to the root, act as fungicides themselves, and provide nutritional support for healing and possible regrowth. If the plant undergoes stress, such as flood or drought, the foliar fertilizer should be replaced with Greenstim. If the plants are badly affected by fungal disease of the root or shoot, the fungicide should be replaced with Bellis and Acrobat. If the leaves are affected by bacterial disease, Cuprofix should be used until it clears up. If nematodes attack the root, Vyd-8 should be sprayed along with Quad 14 or Phortify. If the plants need to initiate new flowering, Cytokin should be applied.

SPRAY APPLICATION

The program recommended is designed to maximize profit and reduce cost. Many products are applied early in the life of the crop because this is when the crop is most vulnerable, and any damage at this stage can affect the productivity of the entire crop. Additionally, since the plants are small, the quantity of product needed is minimal. It is far better to invest a small amount early in the crop, as addressing problems later is more expensive and yields can be greatly reduced. With today's technology, you can apply an insecticide, a fungicide, a foliar fertilizer to feed the plant, and a biostimulant to improve root development, flowering, growth pattern, or resistance to various stresses. Take advantage of it.

A GUIDE TO EGGPLANT PRODUCTION



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PLANT



Drench **Bio 20** 10 ml/gal (stimulate root development) + **Ryzo 500** 15 g/gal (protect from root fungus) + **Frip 5** ml/gal (protect from cutworms and sucking insects) + **Vyd-8** 10 ml/gal (protect from nematodes, mainly on sandy soils) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (for the drench to penetrate the soil effectively). **Spray Fastak or Karatax 5** ml/gal (blanket spray for cutting insects).

WEEK 1



Drench **Agrical** 30 ml/gal (liberate calcium and reduce soil acidity) + **Shield** 10 ml/gal (organic fungicide and bacteriacide) + **Bountiful Harvest** 15 ml/gal (promote root depth and development) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (for the drench to penetrate the soil effectively). **Spray Bio** 20 10 ml/gal (stimulate growth and disease resistance) + **Advance** 10 ml/gal (kill insect eggs and immature stages) + **Carbendazim** 5 ml/gal (protect from fungus affecting shoot) + **Phortify** 10 ml/gal (promote root growth, can substitute **nutrient express** 5 g/gal) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray to spread over and enter the leaf).

WEEK 2



Drench **Powergizer Ultra** 30 ml/gal (mobilise organic matter and stimulate growth) + **Ryzo** 15 g/gal (protect from root fungus) + **Bio 20** 10 ml/gal (promote root depth and development) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (for the drench to penetrate the soil effectively). **Spray Advance** 10 ml/gal (kill insect eggs and immature stages) + **Frip 5** ml/gal (systemic insecticide against most insect pests) + **Bountiful Harvest** 30 ml/gal (promote root growth and health) + **Carbendazim 5** ml/gal (protect from fungus and bacteria affecting shoot) + **Phortify** 10 ml/gal (promote root growth, can substitute **Nutrient Express 5** g/gal) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray to spread over and enter the leaf).

WEEK 3



Drench **Powergizer Ultra** 30 ml/gal (mobilise organic matter and stimulate growth) + **Shield** 10 ml/gal (fungicide) + **Bio 20** 15 ml/gal (promote root depth and development) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (for the drench to penetrate the soil effectively). Spray **Caprid** 5 ml/gal (kill sucking, biting insects, eggs) + **Bellis** 15 g/gal (disease protection and stimulate production) + **Acrobat or Pilot** 10 g/gal (disease protection especially phytophthora) + **Phortify** 10 ml/gal (promote root growth, can substitute **Nutrient Express 5** g/gal) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray to spread over and enter the leaf).

WEEK 4



Drench **Liquid Litter** 30 ml/gal (mobilize nutrients and improve soil structure) + **Ryzo-500** 15 g/gal (protect from root fungus) + **Phortify** 10 ml/gal (promote root growth, can substitute nutrient express 5 g/gal) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (for the drench to penetrate the soil effectively). Spray **Advance** 10 ml/gal (kill insect eggs and immature stages) + **Frip 5** ml/gal (systemic i-insecticide against most insect pests) + **Carbendazim** 5 ml/gal (protect from fungus and bacteria affecting shoot) + **Bio 20** 10 ml/gal (provide nutrients, proliferate root growth) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray to spread over and enter the leaf).

WEEK 5



Spray **Caprid** 5 ml/gal (kill sucking, biting insects, eggs) + **Acrobat or Pilot** 10 g/gal (disease protection especially phytophthora) + **Bellis** 15 g/gal (disease protection and stimulate production) + **Bio 20** 10 ml/gal (provide nutrients, proliferate root growth) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray to spread over and enter the leaf).

WEEK 6



Spray **Cytokin** 5 ml/gal (stimulate flowering) + **Frip 5** ml/gal (systemic insecticide against most insect pests) + **Cuprofix or Coback** 15 g/gal (protect from fungus and bacterial disease) + **Quad 14** 10 ml/gal (provide NPK and Ca, stimulate immunity to disease) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray to spread over and enter the leaf).

WEEK 7



Spray **Bountiful Harvest** 15 ml/gal (stimulate root, shoot, flowering, stress resistance) + **Caprid** 5 ml/gal (kill sucking, biting insects, eggs) + **Cuprofix or Coback 15** g/gal (protect from fungus and bacterial disease) + **Quad 14** 10 ml/gal (provide NPK and Ca, stimulate immunity to disease) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray to spread over and enter the leaf).

WEEK 8



Spray **Advance** 10 ml/gal (kill insect eggs and immature stages) + **Frip 5** ml/gal (systemic insecticide against most insect pests) + **Cuprofix or Coback 15** g/gal (protect from fungus and bacterial disease) + **Cytokin 5** ml/gal (stimulate flowering) + **Sugar Express** 15 g/gal (fruit and flower development) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray to spread over and enter the leaf).

WEEK 9



Spray **Bountiful Harvest** 15 ml/gal (stimulate root, shoot, flowering, stress resistance) + **Caprid 5** ml/gal (kill sucking, biting insects, eggs) + **Carbendazim 5** g/gal (protect from fungus and bacterial disease) + **Quad 14** 10 ml/gal (provide NPK and Ca, stimulate immunity to disease) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray to spread over and enter the leaf).

WEEK 10



Spray **Cytokin** 5 ml/gal (stimulate flowering) + **Pirate or Secure** 5 ml/gal (control Diamondback Moth and other pests) + **Cuprofix or Coback** 15 g/gal (protect from fungus and bacterial disease) + **Bio 20** 10 ml/gal (nutrients for flowering, fruiting, root maintenance) + **Breakthru** 1 ml/gal (helps the spray to spread over and enter the leaf).

After week 10 continue to alternate **weeks 9 and 10** until end of the crop