# Free Workshops

Did you know? KCCG offers 40+ free gardening and cooking workshops each year. With topics ranging from an introduction to vegetable gardening to tips and tricks for pest management and cooking demonstrations with fresh garden produce, we welcome everyone from beginner gardeners to seasoned pros.

See the schedule and register at: kccg.org/workshops

# Online Resources

KCCG's website offers guide sheets on a wealth of gardening topics, including watering, fertilizing, pest management and more!

Find them at kccg.org/gardening-guidesheets

Our vast library of online videos can help you with most anything including planting, maintenance, harvesting, and cooking.

Find them at kccg.org/how-to-videos

### Together We Grow

KCCG provides seeds, plants, resources and education that help more than 42,000 households to grow more than 1.5 million pounds of healthy food each year.



@KansasCityCommunityGardens



@kccommunitygardens



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### Volunteer

Volunteers help to fill seed packs, start transplants, build raised garden beds, and more! We have opportunities for everyone.

To join the fun, visit **www.kccg.org/volunteer** 

### Growing Great Eggplant





### KCCG's Varieties

**Galine** - 65 days -glossy black to purple fruits with classic eggplant shape. Strong plants produce early and are prolific. (hybrid)

**Orient Express** - 58 days - Attractive, slender 8-10", glossy black fruits in long Oriental style. Ready up to 2 weeks before other early varieties. Tender, delicately flavored and quick cooking. (hybrid)

Orient Express - 70 days - Heirloom Asian eggplant, prolific and early-producing. Glossy purple fruits are slender, 12-18" long and 1-2" wide. Potential yield of 20 fruits per plant, vigorous, disease and stress tolerant.(hybrid)

#### **Planting:**

In the Kansas City area, plant between May 10th and May 25th.

Transplants: Plant transplants 18-24" apart in rows that are also 18-24" apart.

When planting in a 4'x12' raised bed, plant transplants three across and seven down.

Seeds: We recommend not starting eggplants from seed outdoors. However, seeds may be started indoors under lights 5 to 7 weeks before the outdoor planting date.

#### Care:

Plants: Water when top 1 inch of soil dries out. Mulch plants with cotton burr compost or straw to keep the soil moist.

Stake the plants that are over 24 inches tall for support.

#### **Harvest and Storage:**

Size is not the indication for eggplant readiness. Eggplants are generally ready for harvest when they have tight skin that, when touched, will indent but slowly bounce back.

Harvest the plant by snipping the stem 1 inch above the fruit. Eggplants may be stored at room temperature for 2-3 days.

#### **Nutritional Facts:**

Potassium, magnesium, Vitamin B6 and folate can all be found in eggplant.

Nasunin, a phytonutrient that helps keep brain cells healthy, can be found in the skin of eggplants.

Consuming eggplant helps reduce cholesterol.

Eggplant is also high in fiber.