The eggplant, also called Solanum melongena, is native to Southeast Asia, but is grown around the world. It’s especially popular in Asia and the Mediterranean. Two other eggplant species, scarlet eggplant (Solanum ptycanthum) and globe eggplant (Solanum macrocarpon), are grown in Africa. Thought of as a vegetable, botanically the eggplant is a fruit—a berry to be precise. From white to purple and almost every shade in between, eggplants come in a wide variety of beautiful colors. It got its name from a white, egg-shaped variety, but we also call this crop brinjal, aubergine and Guinea squash.

**HOW DO YOU EAT YOUR EGGPLANT?**

**DELICIOUS AND NUTRITIOUS**

**Eggplant** is an excellent source of dietary **fiber**. A 100g serving supplies 10% of your **recommended daily fiber intake**.

**Vitamins and minerals** include Vitamins B and C, and minerals such as potassium, magnesium and copper are important components of our diet.

**Antioxidants** include pigments in the skin that are powerful antioxidants, so don’t peel it!

**Phytonutrients** include health-promoting phytonutrients such as sterols, alkaloids and flavonoids, which have anti-cancer, anti-obesity and anti-inflammatory properties.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Eggplants have large, soft fruits and a long growing period, making them vulnerable to pests and diseases. Extreme temperatures, drought and flooding reduce farmers’ yields. Land-use changes threaten eggplant wild relatives, and heirloom varieties are disappearing as farmers switch to high-yielding varieties or other crops.

**WHY ARE EGGPLANTS UNDER THREAT?**

Our climate is changing and we need to adapt **eggplant** to be more resilient to pests and disease, drought and other stresses. To do that, we need to safeguard and use all the diversity of **eggplants** in genebanks—because it’s in the genes that we find the characteristics that make a crop resilient.

**THE SOLUTION: DIVERSITY.**

Share our knowledge about eggplants more widely. Improve our databases on eggplants. Develop better ways to control pests and diseases that attack eggplants. Support collaborations to add missing eggplant diversity to genebanks and make it easier to share this diversity. Evaluate eggplant diversity in genebanks for useful traits so that farmers, breeders and scientists can easily request seeds with the characteristics they need. Encourage collaborations to use eggplant wild relatives in breeding new, more resilient varieties.

**ENSURING ENOUGH EGGPLANT FOR EVERYONE—FOREVER**

As climate change threatens our crops, we need a global conservation strategy to keep them on our plates. By safeguarding the diversity of **eggplant** in genebanks, we support farmers and help keep these tasty, fleshy fruits flourishing.

Learn more about the Crop Trust at [www.croptrust.org](http://www.croptrust.org)