

Eggplant Sampling & Growth Stages

Timing: Begin sampling at stage 1 or 2, and monitor every 10-14 days until stage 7.

Sample volume: Minimum of 50 petioles.

Sampling: Collect 1 leaf per plant, select the youngest fully expanded leaf (YFEL), usually the fourth leaf down from the growing point, from actively growing, representative plants. Discard the leaflets and retain the petioles for analysis. Return to the same representative area or transect for subsequent samples (plant or soil).

Select the growth stage displayed by the majority of plants >60% in a crop

Primary Stage	Secondary Stage	Description	Comments
1			Leaf Development
	1.3	Establishment	3 true leaves unfolded
	1.5		5 true leaves unfolded
	1.9		9 or more true leaves unfolded
2			Formation of side shoots
	2.1	Vegetative Growth	First vegetative side shoots visible (vegetative side shoots are counted upwards from cotyledon node)
	2.3		3 vegetative side shoots visible
	2.9		9 or more vegetative side shoots visible
5			Inflorescence emergence
	5.1	Bud Development	First floral buds visible
	5.9		Petals visible: most floral buds still closed
6			Flowering
	6.3	Fruit set	30% of flowers open
	6.7		70% of flowers open
7			Development of fruit
	7.3	Fruit expansion	Fruit 30% of final size
	7.7		Fruit 70% of final size
8			Maturity
	8.1	Harvest	Fruit start to show full ripe colour
	8.5		50% of fruit harvested
	8.9		Last fruit harvested

Growth Stage numbering system is in accordance to the extended BBCH, a uniform coding of phenologically similar growth stages for all plant species

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