How to Grow Thorny Brinjal/Spine Eggplant- Easy Steps.

Sowing

- To start, it’s recommended to sow thorn brinjal seeds in seedling trays filled with a sterile mix of cocopeat, perlite, and compost. This mix should be moistened before sowing.
- Place around two seeds per cell in the tray, ensuring the depth of sowing is not more than twice the size of the seed.
- After sowing, gently cover the seeds with potting mix and water the trays twice a day until the saplings are ready for transplanting.
- Once the seeds germinate and develop true leaves, consider using liquid fertilizer like seaweed solution or fish fertilizer every 10 days to promote healthy growth.
- Seedlings will be ready for transplanting in 30 to 40 days, depending on environmental conditions.

Transplanting

- For transplanting, use a 12-inch diameter pot filled with a mix of cocopeat, red soil, compost, and rice husks. Add about 50 grams of homemade organic fertilizer to enhance seedling growth.
- Dig a small planting hole in the transplanting pot, add the organic fertilizer, mix it well, and then place the sapling in it.

Fertilizer Application

- Eggplants are heavy feeders, so apply fertilizer every

20 days from the start of flowering.

- Opt for a balanced fertilizer that includes components like nitrogen-rich blood meal, phosphorus-rich bone meal, and a bit of organic potash.
- Around one tablespoon (15 to 20 grams for a 12-inch diameter pot) of this mixture should suffice.
- Rake the fertilizer into the soil and water the pot to ensure no traces of fertilizer remain on the leaves. This watering helps distribute the fertilizer effectively.

Pest Management

- The mealy bug is a common pest for eggplants, causing damage by sucking sap from tender leaves. These bugs can attract red ants, which then bore into the plant and damage its food and water passages.
- The shoot borer is another pest that bores into the shoots, affecting the plant’s nutrient transportation.
- The fruit borer’s larvae bore into young fruits, making them unviable.
- Employ effective pest management strategies, such as using organic insecticides and maintaining good hygiene to prevent infestations.

By carefully following these steps, you can grow healthy and productive thorn brinjal plants, ensuring a good harvest of delicious eggplants.