


SPROUT

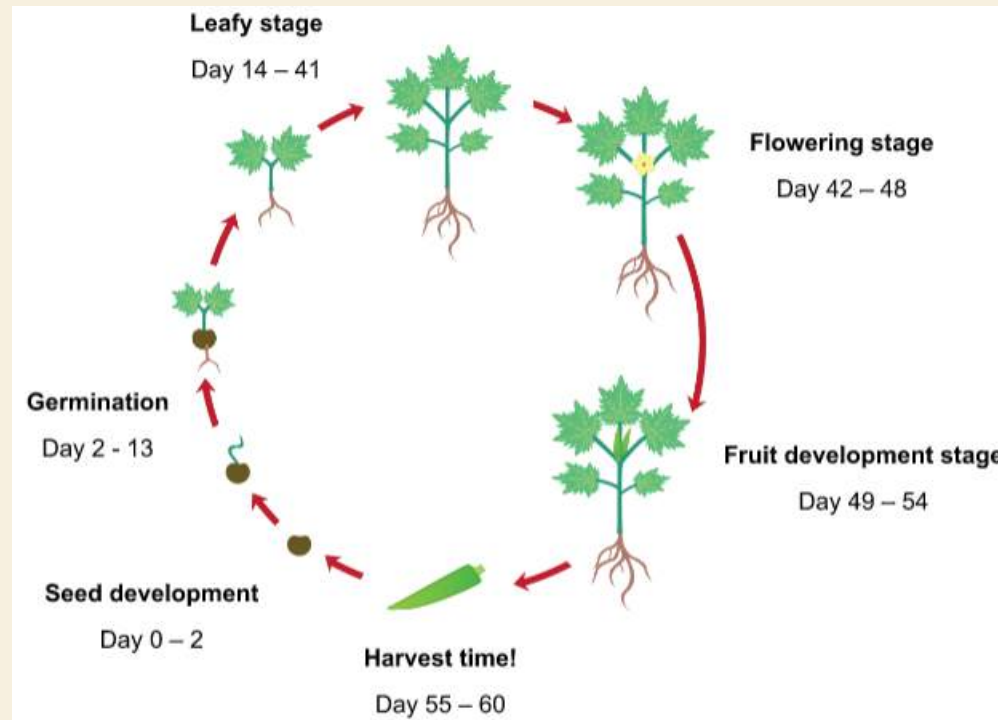
The word "SPROUT" is written in a large, light gray, sans-serif font. The letter "Q" is stylized to include a small plant icon with two leaves inside its circular shape.

Life Cycle of Plants

Topics to Cover

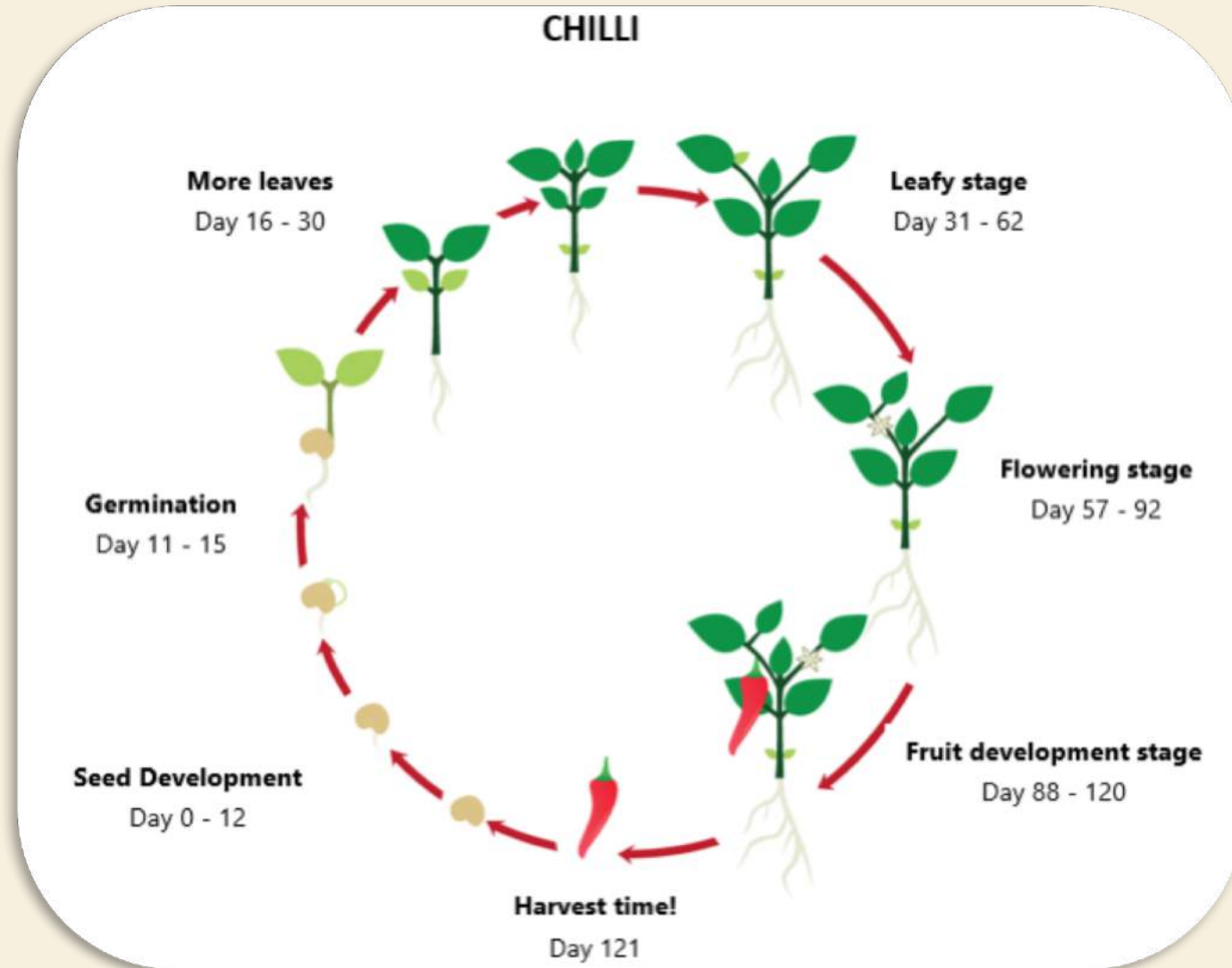
- Life Cycles of the 3 crops
- Seed Germination
- True Leaves Appearing
- Vegetative Stage
- Flowering
- Fruit Development
- Fruit Maturation

OKRA LIFE CYCLE



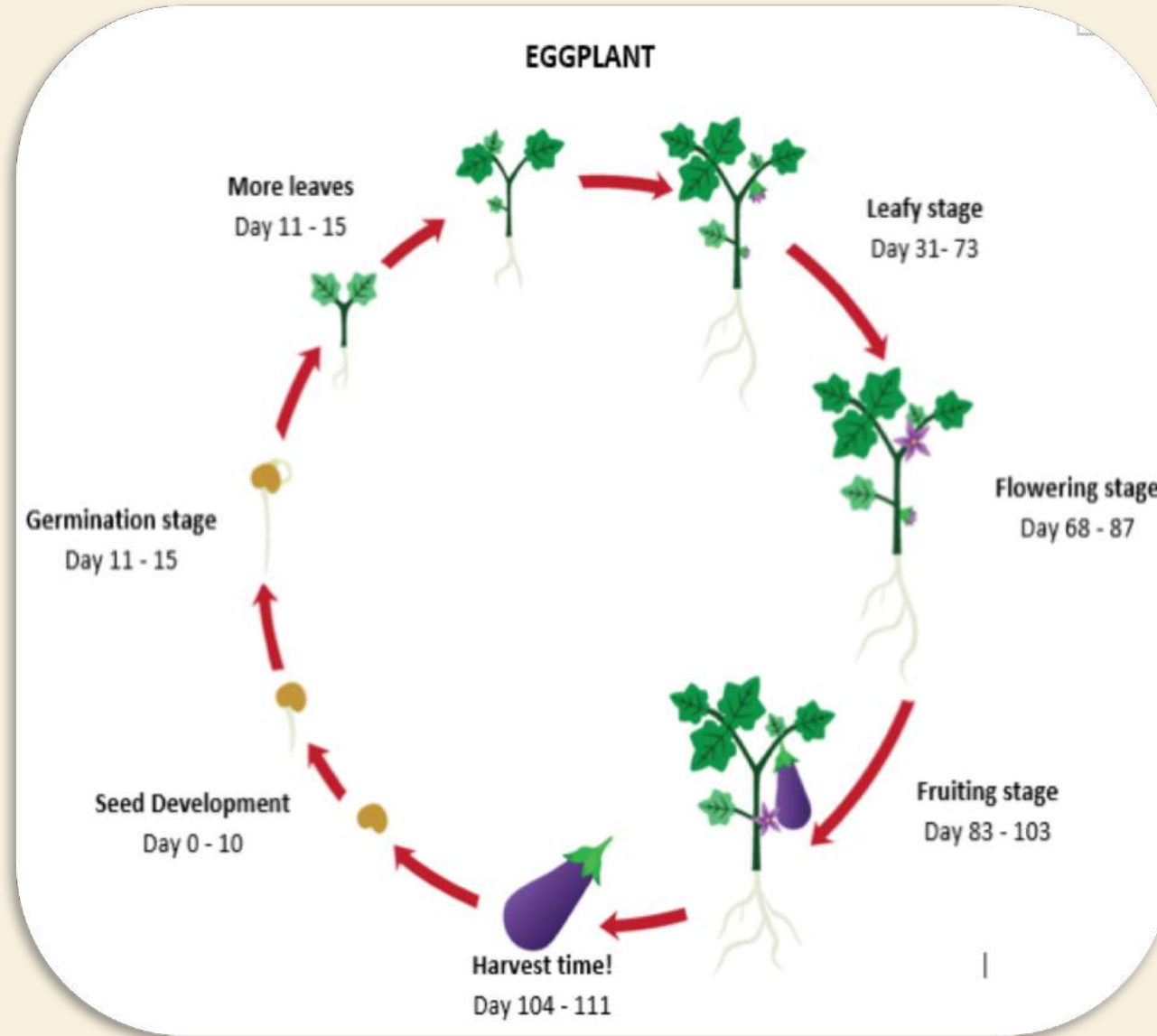


CHILI LIFE CYCLE





EGGPLANT LIFE CYCLE





SEED GERMINATION

- Most Vulnerable stage of growth. Small / Weak / vulnerable to diseases/pests
- Seed germinates and grows its first leaves
- True Leaves are the leaves that grow after its first leaf.



VEGETATIVE STAGE

- Plant Concentrates on growth of roots as they spread thus a wider surface area for the plant to get nutrients for the increased nutrient need as the plant grows.
- The plant also concentrates on stem and foliage growth for more photosynthesis and the inevitable growth of the plant for more leaves + flowers + fruits in the future.
- Typically this is when the plant needs a large surge of Nitrogen for growth.



Eggplant Plant Growing in Vegetative State

BUDDING – FLOWERING STAGE

- Flower buds start to appear on the plant is a sign for the fruits to begin to appear.
- Plants need more nutrients to sustain the flowers and crop growth



Eggplant Flower



Okra Flower



Chilli Flower

FRUIT DEVELOPMENT – RIPENING

As the flowers/fruit reach full maturity, the plants no longer need nutrients – just water. Harvest said plant when it is ready, this differs e.g Okra harvests early / Chili much later

Timing is everything when it comes to home vegetable garden harvest.

Once vegetables are picked they immediately begin to lose flavour, tenderness, and nutritional value.

How do you know when it is time to harvest your crops?

1. Colour
2. Sheen (Shine)
3. Size

- **In the eco-garden there are four harvestable crops being grown!**

1. Okra

Okra are ready to harvest when they are between 5 to 7 cm long.



2. Eggplant

Skin of eggplants should be glossy and thin. They can be harvested when the fruits are developed and small.



3. Chili

Chili peppers can be harvested almost anytime. Most will start off green and then gradually turn, red, possibly turning yellow or orange first. In general, the redder the sweeter; spiciness is not effected by this colour change.

