

HOW TO GROW CUCUMBER !

When to Plant

Plant directly in the ground after danger of frost is past and soil is warm. For an earlier crop, start indoors 3-4 weeks before the last frost using 3-4" Jiffy peat pots and making sure to weather/harden off the plants before setting them in the ground. Roots should be disturbed as little as possible while transplanting.

Location/Soil

Plant in warm, well drained soil in full sun. Soil should be well worked and kept moist.

If planted too early in cool damp soil, germination rates will be significantly decreased.

Planting & Growing Information

Sow seeds 13 mm (1/2") deep and 10 cm (4") apart. Rows should be spaced 1.2 m (48") apart.

Seeds germinate in approximately 8-10 days.

Days to Maturity

55-65 days from date of direct sowing.

Other Information

Cucumbers are shallow rooting so it is advisable to mulch around the plant to keep the soil moist.

Bitterness in cucumbers develops when the plant is stressed by hot, dry weather.

Raised beds are an excellent location for cucumbers and many gardeners have successfully grown them on a trellis to save on space.

Cucumbers grow vigorously and are heavy feeders. The addition of compost or well-rotted manure to the areas where cucumbers are to be planted is an excellent way to provide a good source of nutrients for these plants.

Consider planting near corn where the height of the corn shelters cucumbers from the wind and helps hold the heat which cucumbers love.

Poorly-shaped fruit are usually the result of poor pollination. For most cucumber varieties the first yellow flowers appearing on the plants are male flowers that provide pollen. These

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flowers normally drop off after blooming. The small cucumber is evident at the base of the female flower (even before it opens) and should develop into an edible fruit if properly pollinated. Anything that interferes with pollination of the female flowers reduces fruit set and yield, including cold temperatures and rainy weather.

Cucumbers will not cross-pollinate with squashes, pumpkins, muskmelons, or watermelons.

Harvesting & Storage

Regular harvesting from plants will give higher yields.

Cucumbers can be picked at various stages of their growing period to be enjoyed for eating and pickling.

Companion Planting

Likes: Bean, celery, lettuce, pea, radish

Cucumbers Explained

English Cucumbers are long, thin, with a dark green skin. Mild in flavor, English cucumbers are prized for their thin skin and minimal seeds. English cucumbers are best sliced and raw and are not good for pickling.

Pickling Cucumbers – best varieties for pickling because they are mild tasting and very firm and crisp.

Slicing Cucumbers – Good by themselves, in salads or in most cucumber recipes, slicing cucumbers have smooth skins and unobtrusive seeds.

Burpless Cucumbers – Varieties which are less acidic and therefore tend to cause less indigestion for people prone to it.

Space Saving Cucumbers – bush variety cucumbers can be grown in containers or in the ground.

Beit Alpha Cucumbers are parthenocarpic, all female multi fruited hybrids that do not require pollination and offer a tremendous yield potential. These varieties should not be planted side by side with standard varieties to prevent cross-pollination and seed development. Cool Breeze Cucumbers are another type of parthenocarpic variety.

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Cucumber Genetics

Cucumbers and other vine crops are monoecious. Monoecious plants have separate male and female flowers on the same plant.

Gynoecious varieties are special hybrids which produce predominantly female flowers. Seeds of a standard monoecious variety are commonly included in the seed packet (dyed) to ensure adequate pollination.

Parthenocarpic cucumber varieties develop fruit without pollination. As a result, the non-fertilized fruit do not contain seeds. Parthenocarpic varieties must be isolated from standard varieties to prevent cross-pollination and seed development.

Cucumber varieties may cross with one another. However, the quality of this year's crop is not affected. (An exception is the cross-pollination of parthenocarpic varieties with standard varieties.)

Source:

McKenzie Seeds (www.mckenzieseeds.com), a longtime supporter of Plant • Grow • Share a Row

Links:

Seeds:

<https://mckenzieseeds.com/collections/cucumber>

Other:

<https://www.harrowsmithmag.com/3955/tomatoes-as-catalysts-for-change>

<http://eatwhatyousow.ca/2006/08/28/pickles-2/>



As part of your garden this year, plant and grow an extra row of your favourite veggies and donate the harvest to your local food bank. Help us help all those in need.

