

HARVESTING

The immature fruit, which resembles a long green cylinder, is picked at various stages of development and is usually eaten raw.

Different varieties of cucumbers vary in length from about 10 to 76cm (4 to 30in). If the cucumber is allowed to mature, the fruit bulges in the middle, changes in colour from green to yellow, and is not fit for consumption.



Cucumbers are used in salads and other foods.



GROWING CUCUMBERS



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ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

Cucumber is a warm season vegetable and is very sensitive to cold conditions. However it can be grown under a wide range of temperature and moisture conditions.

SOIL REQUIREMENT

Cucumbers grow best in fertile well ploughed soil with large amounts of compost. This compost should not contain the remain of discarded cucumbers, pumpkins and melons as these vegetables have similar disease problems.

LAND PREPARATION

Plough soil to provide moisture and good drainage. Plough organic matter into the soil during land preparation.

Spay soil with an insecticide such as Basudin, before planting as a protective measure against insect pests such as ants and mole cricket.

CROP ESTABLISHMENT

The crop is usually established locally by direct seeding.

- Construct ridges 3-4ft apart.
- Make holes 1ft apart within row.
- Place seeds 2-3 seeds per hole 1 inch deep cover with soil, and water.
- Thin out seeds 1 per hole.
- If 2 plants are left per hole adjust plant space 2ft apart.



Plant 2-3 seeds per hole 1ft apart.

FERTILIZATION

The rate of the fertilizer given will depend on the quality of the soil and the maturity of the plants. However NPK can be given to them.

When applying the fertilizer, place it 2½ inches from the plant and 1½ inches deep. All fertilizer should be covered.

WEED CONTROL

Weed control is usually done manually and is best done as the weeds appear. Also mould plants after weeding. However chemical weed control may be necessary.

PESTS

Diseases of importance in cucumber production are **Anthracnose, Mildew, Mosaic Virus** and **Scab**.

Also several insects attack cucumber. These include: **Aphids** and **Cucumber Beetle**.

CHEMICAL PESTS CONTROL

Diseases	Chemicals	Dosage
Aphids	Decis Orthene	2-3tsp/3gals 3 tsp/gal
Beetle	Basudin	3 tsp/gal
Anthracnose	Benlate Dithane	½ oz/gal 1 oz/gal