

Cucumber

Cucumis sativus

Cucumbers are delicious fresh or pickled, and are used in many dishes all around the world.

Cucumber plants grow similar to a vine, and will grow best when they can grow vertically. It's recommended to train them up some lattice, a fence, or even an archway. While they could grow in a pot, they're happier in the earth where they can spread out.

While cucumbers do like a lot of sun, too much sun can burn the fruit if it gets too hot. Some shade during the hottest parts of the afternoon will help your plant. Cucumbers thrive in warmer weather.

Cucumbers need a fair bit of water and well drained, loose soil. They like to dry out between watering.

Recommendations:

To easily identify your seedlings, label your stake.

Sow directly where you would like to grow the plant (as opposed to in seedling trays). This reduces root disturbance.

To increase bushiness of the plant, occasionally pinch the tips of the growing vine.

Cucumbers like good airflow around the vines so be sure to keep some space between the plants.

To save your seed:

Allow the fruit to grow large. Harvesting too early will mean the seeds are too small. The skin of the fruit will harden. Open the fruit and remove the seeds. Wash them thoroughly and allow to dry completely.

The thicker the seeds, the longer time they need to dry out. Be sure to let them dry fully before storing seeds. Store in a sealed container in a cool and dry place.

Remember to label your seeds with the name and date of when they were collected.