Cucumbers

BASIC CARE
• Full exposure 6-8 hours a day
• Some afternoon shading in hot summer months can reduce plant stress.
• Pour water directly into the soil at the base of the plant, not on the leaves or fruits.
• Keep soil consistently moist but not overly wet.
> To test: push a finger one inch deep into the soil; if dry, add water.
• In summer, plants will need almost daily watering.

WATER
• Generally ready to harvest 50-70 days from planting.
• Cucumbers are ready to harvest when they are green, firm, and a size that fits the variety and your use for them. Don’t let them get too large or allow them to get yellow on the vine.
• To harvest: using scissors or shears, cut the vine just above the fruit. Don’t pull – it can damage the plant.
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HARVESTING
In order to grow vining cucumbers, you’ll need a way for them to climb. Trellises can be constructed from garden stakes and chicken wire, or you can get creative with other materials.

TRELLIS: YOUR CUCUMBERS NEED SUPPORT!

STORING
They start to go bad!
Offer to your neighbors if you have too many to consume before stored well or refrigerated after harvesting.
Cucumbers are mostly water, so they will spoil quickly if not
correctly stored.

COMMON PROBLEMS
Pollination isn’t successful. Cucumbers have male and female flowers and sometimes when the plant is young, the flowers don’t sync up in flowering. As the plant matures, you should get more successful pollination.

FLOWERING BUT NOT FRUITING
Otherwise, they are likely not getting enough sun.

INSECT PESTS: SQUASH BUGS & PICKLE WORMS
Cucumbers are prone to some pests. You’ll see signs of nibbling on your leaves and mining of your cucumbers. To help prevent, plant cucumbers away from squash and melons. Harvest cucumbers young if pickle worms are eating your crop.

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