



# CUCUMBERS

## BASIC CARE

### SUN

- Full exposure 6-8 hours a day
- Some afternoon shading in hot summer months can reduce plant stress.

### WATER

- 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 finger one inch deep into soil, if dry, add water.
- In summer, plants will need almost daily watering.

### TRELLIS: YOUR CUCUMBERS NEED SUPPORT!

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.

### HARVESTING

- 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 fruit. Don't pull - it can damage the plant.

### STORING

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

## COMMON PROBLEMS

### FLOWERING BUT NOT FRUITING

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

### INSECT PESTS: SQUASH BUGS & PICKLE WORMS

- 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 (otherwise they are likely to get mined).