

Easy to Grow in a Container!

Love the
Food
You Eat!

Growing Cucumbers

Whether for picking or slicing, cucumbers are easy to grow if you give them good soil, full sun and sufficient moisture, and wait for weather to warm before planting. Bush and vining varieties can be incorporated into ornamental plantings. Great for planting in a container on your patio or deck!



When & How to Plant: Cucumbers are not hard to grow if you provide good soil, plenty of moisture and full sun, wait for soil and weather to warm before planting, and use fabric row covers if pests are a problem. Do not plant in the garden until soil reaches 65 degrees.

Cucumbers are very sensitive to cold. They need warm soil and air, whether direct-seeded or transplanted. Transplant into black plastic mulch or warm garden soil after danger of frost has passed and weather has settled. Be careful not to damage roots when transplanting. If using peat pots, make sure they are saturated before transplanting and completely buried. If using row covers, remove when flowers begin to blossom to assure good pollination.

For a continuous harvest, make successive plantings every 2 to 3 weeks until about 3 months before first fall frost date. About 1 month before first frost, start pinching off new flowers so plants channel energy into ripening existing fruit.

To save space, train vining cucumbers to a trellis. Set up trellis before planting or transplanting to avoid root injury. Space plants about 10 inches apart. Pinch back vines that extend beyond the trellis to encourage lateral growth. Most cucumbers have both male and female flowers. The male flowers blossom first and produce pollen, but no fruit. Other varieties produce female flowers predominately or exclusively.

Maintenance & Care:

Preferred Sunlight: Full Sun.

Preferred Soil Conditions: Prefers well-drained fertile soil, high in organic matter with near neutral pH. Consistent, plentiful moisture needed until fruit is ripening. May develop bitter taste in dry sites. Cucumbers are heavy nitrogen feeders and require fertile soil.



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When choosing cucumber varieties, keep in mind,

Pickling varieties: bear short fruit (usually 3-4 inches) with thin skins and spines, usually with a stippled color pattern ranging from dark green at the end stem to light green at the blossom end. They are usually ready to harvest sooner than slicing varieties, but harvest only lasts about 7-10 days.

Slicing varieties– have longer fruit (usually 7-8 inches) with a thick skin. Their coloring is sometimes stippled but is usually a uniform dark green. They usually start to bear a week or so later than pickling varieties, but harvest may continue for 4 to 6 weeks.

Vining varieties– produce more fruit than bush varieties, but they take up much more space.

Bush varieties bear fruit slightly earlier than vining varieties, and are easier to care for and harvest.

“Burpless” varieties have been selected to eliminate gas build-up that affects some people.

Seedless European varieties bred for greenhouse production usually perform poorly in gardens.

Some varieties recommended for New York:

Slicing:

Burpless Hybrid II
Greensleeves
Marketmore76
Marketmore 80
Orient Express
Raider
Spacemaster
Sweet Slice

Pickling:

National
Regal

Source:

**Cornell University, Home Gardening, Vegetable Growing Guides.
For a complete Growing Guide and additional information visit.**

www.gardening.cornell.edu



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