



Garden Center and Nursery

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Cucumbers Growing Tips

Cucumbers require a long, warm growing season of at least 50-65 days. They are extremely sensitive to frost and cannot be planted outside until after the last average frost day, usually May 20. The soil must be at least 60 degrees F for seeds to germinate. Cucumbers need full sunlight (at least 6-7 hours each day) to be productive.

Cucumber seedlings do not transplant well, but you can start seeds indoors in peat pots and plant the peat pot directly in your garden.

Irregular watering will produce poor, bitter fruits. Temporary wilting in late afternoon is common, but morning wilting requires immediate watering. Cucumbers need water every 5-7 days, but don't forget about the variables: intense summer heat, how much water your soil holds, how many hours of sunlight the plants get each day, etc.

Most cucumbers must be cross-pollinated to set fruit. Vines produce both male and female flowers. Male flowers have a slender stalk at the base, and female flowers are swollen at the base. The first flowers to appear are male flowers and often do not produce fruit. Be on the lookout for pollinators and use companion planting to attract them to your garden.

Cucumbers are harvested and eaten during the immature stage. Remove them from the vine when they are large enough to enjoy and before they turn yellow. This will allow the plant to put more energy into producing more fruits.