



## Cucumber Planting Guide

### About Cucumbers

While it is often perceived, prepared, and eaten as a vegetable, the cucumber is technically classified as a botanical berry. Consisting of 95% water, cucumbers continuously offer a fresh scent and crisp taste during the hot days of summer.

### When to Plant

Cucumbers should be directly sown 3-4 weeks after the last frost in the spring. If necessary, they can be started indoors 4-6 weeks before your last frost, using a grow light and seed starting soil mix.

### Where to Plant

It is best to plant cucumbers in areas that get at least 8 hours of direct sunlight each day. Although they do best in loose sandy loam soil, cucumbers can be grown in any well-drained soil. Their roots reach 36-48" deep, so be careful not to plant them where tree roots will rob them of water and nutrients.

### How to Plant

Amend your soil with compost or aged manure prior to planting. Plant seeds 1/2" deep and about 1" apart. Alternatively, you can create hills 4-6' apart, with 6-8 seeds per hill. Cut the 3 weakest plants once seedling emerge for this method. It is important to note that cucumbers are vine plants- setting up a trellis may be beneficial depending on the layout of your garden.

### Caring for Cucumbers

Make sure to keep soil moist and avoid letting the soil dry out completely. Germination generally takes around 10 days when temperatures are about 70 degrees F. Harvest before cucumbers are fully mature, as they tend to get seedy once reaching maturity. They also grow very fast, so it's important to check plants often for harvest. To harvest, cut cucumbers off the vine, as pulling them off can damage or break the vine, preventing further production.