



Mercy Wellness Seed Program Growing Guides

Cucumbers:

Start: Seeds best started directly in the garden after soil temperatures reach 60° to 65°F, after danger of frost has passed. Plant 4-6 seeds in groups 24" apart. Cover in 1" of soil and keep evenly moist. Seedling emerge in 7-14 days. Thin to 3-4 strongest seedlings when they are 1-2" high.

Water: Keep plants well-watered especially during dry spells. This will help keep cucumbers from becoming bitter. Cucumbers have shallow root systems so mulching will help in retaining soil moisture, maintaining even soil temperatures, as well as keeping down weeds. Cucumbers need 1-2" of rain per week.

Soil: Peppers have shallow root systems, so a loose soil will help their roots spread. pH 5.8-6.5

Light: Full sun.

Fertilize: Cucumbers prefer fertile, rich soil so work some organic material like compost or manure into the soil. pH 6.0-7.0

Harvest: Harvest cucumbers when fully grown yet still young and tender generally about 6-8" for slicing cucumbers or 3-5" for pickling cucumbers. Harvest about 50-60 days after seeding. Cut cucumbers from the vine rather than pulling them which could damage the vine.

Notes: Growing cucumbers up a trellis will save space and lead to straighter, more uniform fruit.

