

CUCUMBER

Cucumis sativus

Origin: Asia and Africa

Edible Portion: Fruit

SOWING AND PLANTING

Climatic Requirements: Frost tender crop that can only be grown outdoors after the last frost has passed.

Preferred Soil Type: Well structured, high organic matter, free draining loams and silt loams.

Seed Required: 1.1-1.7kg/ha.

Optimum Soil Temperature Range for Germination: 15.5-35.0°C.

Emergence Time: 3-13 days, optimum 7 days.

Plant Spacing: In-row 30.0-60.0cm, between rows 150.0-180.0cm.

Plants per Hectare: 9,200-22,000.

Method of Propagation: Usually sown in situ either by hand or with precision seeding equipment. 2-3 seeds are sown at each site. For early production plants can be raised under glass and transplanted into the field when frosts have passed.

Sowing Dates: Early crop – September to early October. Main crops – Late October to late November. Glasshouse propagation – August.

Planting Out Dates: October to November.

Other Sowing and Planting Information: Do not sow or plant in land that has been treated with the herbicides atrazine, metribuzin or diuron the previous season. A fine seed bed assists the germination of the seed.

FERTILISER

Optimum Soil Test Levels: N = 100-150, P = 80-100, K = 30-40, Mg = 35-50, Ca = 12-18, Na = 1-20.

Base Dressing (kg/ha): N = 40.0, P = 50.0, K = 75.0. The base fertiliser should be applied and well worked into the soil prior to seeding or planting.

Side Dressing (kg/ha): N = 25.0. The nitrogen side dressing is applied after the plants begin to run and when the first flowers have appeared. With early direct seeded outdoor crops some extra nitrogen side dressing may be required immediately after germination to give an initial boost. It is essential not to allow the nitrogen fertiliser to contact the leaves as severe burning will occur.

Optimum pH Range: 6.5-6.7. Satisfactory crops can be produced over a pH range of 5.5-6.8.

Lime Requirement: For pH correction only.

PESTS AND DISEASES

Important Pests and Their Control:

Aphids – chlorpyrifos, deltamethrin, permethrin/pirimiphos-methyl, phorate, primicarb

Cutworm – chlorpyrifos, esfenvalerate

Whitefly – buprofezin, permethrin/primiphos-methyl

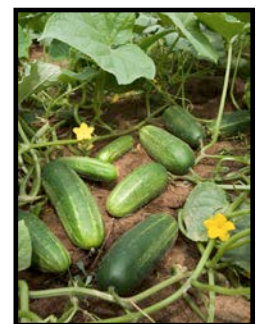
Important Diseases and Their Control:

Angular leaf spot – cupric hydroxide

Anthraxnose – captan, mancozeb

Downy mildew – captan, chlorothalonil, cupric hydroxide, mancozeb, metalaxyl

Powdery mildew – benomyl, chlorothalonil, chlorothalonil, chlorothalonil/thiophanate-methyl, dinocap/myclobutanil, penconazole, pyrazophos, sulphur, triadimefon, tridemorph, triforine



Safe fertilisers

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CUCUMBER Program

Biology Kick start; Apply 10 lt /ha Activator

Ground preparation:

Apply 1 tonne/ha Lime **or** Liquid Lime @ 40lt/ha in 300lt/water
Apply 400kg/ha Alroc Extraphos & Potash
Apply 100Kg Safe Coated Urea

Side Dressing

Liquid Lime @ 20lt/ha in 300lt/water or through your water system
Apply 100 Kg/Ha DAP Supablend

Foliar Apply; Vital Mix monthly during growth stages @ 6lt/ha in 300lt water
5lt Vital K Blast monthly from fruit set

Sidedressing / Maintenance to picking

Apply 400 Kg/Ha NPK Supablend, This can be applied split in two applications
Use 60kg/ha Safe Coated Urea Spread on with spinner spreader, again two applications
Use one application of Liquid Lime @ 12lt/ha to assist the balancing of conductivity and low calcium

Liquid Feed, Growth Stage

Vital Mix @ 4lt/ha monthly

Liquid feed, Fruiting Stage

Vital K Blast @ 10lt/ha Monthly

Monitor potash, may need Sulphate of potash topup

Top up Fertiliser requirements:

Nitrogen:

Use 40kg/ha Safe Coated Black Urea side dress with 6lt / ha Vital Activator sprayed on soil
Apply 100 kg/ ha NPK Supablend

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Disclaimer

The above program will be affected by soil variation, testing errors, seasonal factors and management skills. Any recommendation should be acted upon as part of an ongoing fertiliser program. No responsibility can be accepted for any of the above matters or other matters that are beyond our control.