

Cucumber, Oriental

Variety

Contact Manitoba Agriculture and Food's Vegetable Specialist for variety recommendations.

Spacing

Approximately 7,000 – 10,000 plants/acre. In row spacing at 24 inches (60 cm) and between row spacing at 48-60 inch (120-150 cm).

Planting

Oriental Cucumber can be transplanted or direct seeded. For transplants, start seed indoors May 1st for transplanting first week of June. Do not plant outdoors until 2 weeks after last frost. Cucumbers are a warm season crop and temperatures below 10°C can severely affect plant development.

Fertility

Refer to Tables 1 through 9 for this crop. For general recommendations in the absence of a soil test, refer to Table 10 in the fertility section.

Cucumbers can be grown on a wide range of soils, provided they are well drained. The optimum soil pH is 6.0-7.0.

Irrigation

Cucumbers require a continuous supply of moisture during the growing season, particularly during blossoming and fruiting, as water stress can significantly reduce yields. An average of 1 inch (25 mm) of water per week, and up to 2 inches (50 mm) in hot dry weather is recommended. During flowering irrigation should be scheduled so as not to interfere with bee pollination in the morning and early afternoon.

Pest Management

Insects and Diseases

Cucumbers are susceptible to a wide spectrum of insects and diseases, which can cause serious crop losses. Diseases are best controlled by a combination of resistant cultivars, crop rotation and preventative fungicide application. The main insect pest is the striped cucumber beetle, which can be controlled, refer to the Insecticide section of the *Guide to Vegetable Crop Protection 2003*.

Weeds

Weed control is achieved through a combination of mechanical, manual and chemical methods. Refer to the Herbicide section of the *Guide to Vegetable Crop Protection 2003*, for more information.

Harvest and Post Harvest

Days to maturity from transplant 55-60 days. Cucumbers require continuous hand harvest from initial fruiting to end of season. Plants should be trellised to promote straight fruit production and easier harvesting. Harvest when fruit is 10-12 inches (25 - 30 cm) in length. Harvested product should be removed from the field and cooled as soon as possible, and can be held 10-14 days at 10 -12°C with 95% relative humidity. Cucumbers are chill sensitive and can be damaged if held at temperatures below 10°C. Do not store cucumbers with other crops which emit ethylene gas, as this can cause yellowing of the fruit.