

# Cucumber

Mercury cucumbers grow to 20cm (8") long with thin, shiny, dark skins and crisp, sweet, flavourful flesh. Lots of fruits develop on each plant in one relatively concentrated set. They are suitable for pickling when picked immature, but they make fine slicers at full size.

**Matures in 55 days**

**Season: Warm season**

**Exposure: Full sun**

**Difficulty: Easy**



## Growing

Sow 3-4 seeds 2cm (1") deep in each spot you want a plant to grow. Thin to the strongest seedling. Space plants 23cm (9") apart in rows 90cm (36") apart.

Choose warm, well-drained soil. Add compost and ½-1 cup of complete organic fertilizer mixed into the soil beneath each transplant. Keep plants well picked for better production. Try to water the soil only, keeping the leaves as dry as possible. Almost all cucumbers benefit from being trained onto a trellis of some kind as some vines can reach 7 or 8 feet in length.

## Saving

Cut cucumbers in half lengthwise to extract the seeds. Scoop out seeds and any surrounding pulp from the seed cavity. Place this mixture of seeds and pulp into a small bucket or jar with some water. The mixture needs to undergo fermentation for 1-3 days to remove the pulp from the seeds. When fermentation is complete, separate the pulp from the seeds and rinse and dry them. Put the seeds into a dated and labeled envelope and return to Brock!