

# Cucumber, Oriental

## Variety

Contact Manitoba Agriculture'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

If required, contact your Ag Supply agronomist, Manitoba Agriculture agronomist, or fee for service agronomist/consultant for fertilizer recommendations.

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 using recommended pest control products.

## Weeds

Weed control is achieved through a combination of mechanical, manual and chemical methods. If required, contact your Ag Supply agronomist, Manitoba Agriculture agronomist, or fee for service agronomist/consultant for weed control recommendations.

## 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.