

Cucumber

Cucumis sativus · Cucurbit family

DIFFICULTY Easy
TYPE Annual vine, sown or seedling
MATURITY 50–70 days



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Regular, even



SOIL PH
6.0–6.8



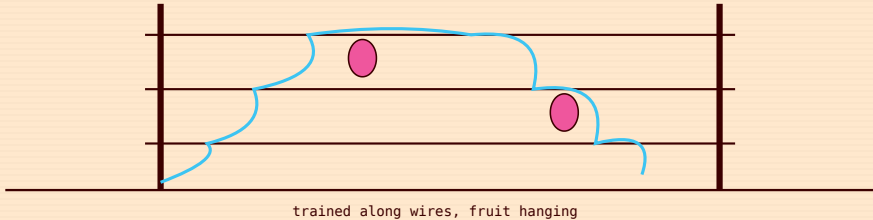
SPACING
30–45cm on
trellis



DEPTH
2cm

01 Best trellised

Growing cucumbers up a trellis keeps fruit straight, clean, and easy to spot — and saves considerable garden space over letting them sprawl.



trained along wires, fruit hanging

02 Planting

METHOD	Sow or plant seedlings at the base of a trellis or fence.
SOIL	Rich, well-drained, high organic matter.
TIMING	Plant once soil is reliably warm, after frost risk.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

04 Problems

- **Powdery mildew** — humid conditions; improve airflow, water at the base.
- **Cucumber beetle** — chews leaves and can spread disease; net young plants.
- **Bitter fruit** — heat or water stress; keep watering consistent.
- **Poor fruit set** — low pollinator activity; hand-pollinate if needed.

03 Growing care

- Train young vines onto the trellis early.
- Water evenly — inconsistent watering causes bitter fruit.
- Mulch to keep soil moisture steady.
- Pick regularly to keep the vine productive.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Fruit is firm, glossy, and full-sized for the variety — before yellowing.
METHOD	Cut rather than pull, to avoid damaging the vine.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Fridge crisper, about a week.
PRESERVING	See Fermenting (fermented pickles) or Root Cellaring (storing winter squash and pumpkin) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Beans Peas Radish	Potato Aromatic herbs	Rotate cucurbits on a 3-year cycle.
Sunflower		