

How to Grow *Cucumber*

Crisp, juicy, and oh-so refreshing.



Why We Love Cucumber

Consisting mostly of water — but chock-full of vitamins A, B, and C — a fresh cucumber can provide cool, nutritious refreshment on a hot afternoon. An iconic summertime crop, cucumbers are ideal for the beginner gardener, because with just a little work, a bumper crop of cukes is yours for the picking. They are also easy to use in the kitchen. Throw them on a salad or on a sandwich, make pickles, or even garnish your favourite summertime cocktail.

Varieties

- **Slicing Cucumbers** – Common in supermarkets. Characterized by thick, uniform, dark green skin. Perfect for salads and sandwiches.
- **Pickling Cucumbers** – Smaller, often thinner-skinned. Perfect for pickling. Often feature a colour gradient from dark green at the stem to lighter green at the blossom end.

What You'll Need

- Tower Garden Growing System
- Seeds included in your [Seedling Starter Kit](#)
- Net Pots
- [LED Indoor Grow Lights](#) (for indoor growing)
- Access to power source

Directions

1. Germinate your seeds. This step will take roughly 1-2 weeks. Cucumber seeds should be ready for transplant (about 10-14 days) when they have a good root system growing from the rockwool cubes.
2. Place one seedling cube into each net pot on your Tower Garden Growing System. We suggest placing the plant(s) in the lower tier(s) of your Tower Garden. This will allow the vines to spill over onto the ground surface. You can also train the vines onto the support cage and let them fountain over the sides.
3. Gently press the seedling cube until it touches the base of the net pot.

GROWING INFORMATION

Cucumber

DIFFICULTY



INDOOR VS. OUTDOOR

Outdoor

TIME TO HARVEST

7-10 weeks

BEST TOWER POSITION

Bottom



Growing Conditions

Temperature: 18°C–32°C

Light

For outdoor – minimum 6-8 hours of full sunlight daily

For indoor – set grow light timer for 14-16 hours on, 8-10 hours off

Watering Cycle

Please set the Tower timer to “O” for outdoor growing



Maintenance & Pest Prevention

- Check water and pH levels at least weekly.
- Keep roots away from pump.
- If not in full sun when outdoors, rotate garden regularly for even growing.
- Clean pump monthly.
- Check regularly for pests.
- Remove or dispose of any dead or diseased plant material.



Harvesting

- Expect to harvest your delicious cucumber about 45-60 days after transplanting it into your Tower.
- Make sure to use a knife or shears to remove cucumber from the plant to avoid injuring the rest of the vine.
- Begin harvesting most varieties when the fruits are 15cm–20cm long.
- If cucumbers are left on the vine and grow too large, they may yellow and become hard. It's best to remove these fruits from the vine and allow others to develop.



Ways to Enjoy

- **Salads** – A popular side dish across Europe, the cucumber salad is a total classic. Using basic ingredients found around your kitchen, like salt, pepper, sugar, and red onion, this salad is refreshing, delicious, and nutritious.
- **Infused-Water** – Enhance the taste and nutritional value of your water with this simple trick. Simply slice up a freshly harvested cucumber, throw it in a large jug of water and let sit for a few hours.
- **Pickles** – Did you know that pickles all start as cucumbers? Making them from scratch is also simple. You'll need a few basic ingredients as well as dill, rice vinegar, and garlic cloves.

For more information about growing cucumbers, please visit towergarden.com.

