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# Tips For Growing Cucumbers

Cucumbers are great for pickling, tossing in salads, or eating straight off the vine.

## Types of Cucumbers

There are two main types of cucumbers: slicing and [pickling](#) <sup>[1]</sup>. Each type comes in several [different varieties](#) <sup>[2]</sup>. The slicing types are long and usually grow to about 6 or 8 inches (15-20 cm.) in length while the pickling types are shorter, reaching around 3 to 4 inches (7.6 to 10 cm.) once mature.

There are now many bush or compact varieties of cucumbers available that are ideal for growing in limited space.

## Starting Cucumbers

Cucumbers can be started indoors from seed, either purchased or [saved and harvested from previous plants](#) <sup>[3]</sup>, in peat pots or small flats and transplanted to the garden a couple weeks thereafter but only when all danger of frost has passed. Before you move them to the garden, however, [harden the plants off](#) <sup>[4]</sup> in a protected location to lessen any stress that may occur during transplanting. During cool periods, cucumbers can be covered with plant protectors as well.

## Where to Plant Cucumbers

Cucumbers like warm, humid weather; loose, organic soil; and plenty of sunlight. They grow well in most areas of the United States and do especially well in southern regions.

When planting cucumbers, choose a site that has adequate drainage and fertile soil. Good soil will have plenty of [organic matter](#) <sup>[5]</sup>, such as [compost](#) <sup>[6]</sup>. Adding compost to the soil will help get your cucumbers off to a good start, and applying an [organic](#)



Cucumbers may be planted in hills or rows about 1 inch (2.5 cm.) deep and [thinned as needed](#) <sup>[9]</sup>. Since cucumbers are a vine crop, they usually require a lot of space. In large gardens, cucumber vines may spread throughout rows; within smaller gardens, cucumbers may be [trained for climbing on a fence](#) <sup>[10]</sup> or trellis. Training cucumbers on a fence or trellis will reduce space and lift the fruit off the soil. This method also can provide your garden with a neater appearance. The bush or compact varieties are quite suitable for growing in small spaces or even in [containers](#) <sup>[11]</sup>.

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URLs in this post:

[1] pickling: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/edible/vegetables/cucumber/pickling-cucumber-varieties.htm>

[2] different varieties: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/edible/vegetables/cucumber/types-cucumbers-plants.htm>

[3] saved and harvested from previous plants: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/edible/vegetables/cucumber/cucumber-seed-harvesting.htm>

[4] harden the plants off: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/garden-how-to/propagation/seeds/how-to-harden-off-your-seedlings.htm>

[5] organic matter: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/garden-how-to/soil-fertilizers/what-is-organic-material.htm>

[6] compost: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/composting/basics/composting-basics.htm>

[7] organic fertilizer: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/garden-how-to/soil-fertilizers/types-of-organic-fertilizer.htm>

[8] manure: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/composting/manures/the-benefits-of-manure-in-your-garden.htm>

[9] thinned as needed: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/garden-how-to/propagation/seeds/thinning-seedlings.htm>

[10] trained for climbing on a fence: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/edible>



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