

Growing Cucumbers in Greenhouses

T

In greenhouses, cucumbers are often grown in containers or hydroponic systems. One or two plants can be grown in containers with 5 to 8 gallons of growing media. A peatlite mixture with good porosity and drainage works well.

Spacing the plants to allow for adequate air circulation and light is essential for good growth and production. An arrangement with 12 to 18 inches between plants in rows that are 4 to 5 feet apart is suitable for a vertical trellising system. Cucumbers are highly responsive to the amount of light in the growing environment. With less light than naturally available during an Alaska summer, plants may need to be spaced farther apart for satisfactory growth.

Greenhouse cucumbers grow rapidly with optimum temperatures. A range of 75° to 80°F during the day is desir-

leaves should be removed to improve air circulation and allow light to reach developing cucumbers. Flower production depends on the number of leaves and branches. Removing developing cucumber fruits stimulates vegetative growth. Lateral shoots, flowers and fruit developing in the lower five to seven leaf axils (nodes) on the main stem must be removed (see diagrams below and on next page) to ensure the development of a strong plant.

When too many cucumbers are developing at the same time, some will shrivel or fall off due to lack of sufficient nutrients.



