

Seed Saving Guide for Cucumber

- member of the Cucurbit Family
- ideal for beginners
- annual life cycle
- keep different cucumber varieties 800 feet to ½ mile apart
- save seed from at least 1-5 plants
- Seed longevity around 5 years

To harvest seeds:

- leave fruits on the vine past when you would normally pick them to eat
- fruit is mature when it grows much larger than when you would normally pick to eat it; it turns yellow or orange and the skin softens; seeds inside are plump & firm
- wait several weeks after the fruit changes to yellow or orange then pull from the vine

To clean seeds:

- cut fruit in half lengthwise & scoop out the seeds and pulp
- place seeds & pulp in container with water
- seeds are dry when they are hard and can cleanly snap in half

Fermentation is important for some wet seeds. The process allows the seed coats to become more permeable to water which improves sprouting, removes substances that inhibit germination, and reduces seed-borne diseases.

Be sure seeds are completely dry before returning them to the Seed Library or storing them at home for yourself.



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Growing & Seed Saving Guides researched & written by Master Gardeners of Cornell Cooperative Extension Warren County

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