



Jake's Plant Takes

Cucumis sativus

Commonly known as "Cucumber"

Cucumbers are a creeping vine belonging to the gourd family and is widely cultivated for multiple uses. It can be allowed to spread over the ground or it can climb up if you provide them with something to climb, like a trellis. They are a later season crop which means they can not be planted until the soil is warmer and there are no more chances of frost. Cucumbers require more space, which means they also require more maintenance. A basic fertilizer of 20-20-20 would be good for growing vines. Water well and make sure you water where the plant enters the ground.

The Basics

Water: Moderate, like well drained soil
Sunlight: Full sun at a minimum of 6 hours
Upkeeping: High (vine maintenance)

Fun Fact

Cucumbers are botanically a fruit, specifically a pepo which means it is mostly water.

Cucumber Varieties We Have This Year

Burpless Bush Slicer: Has a smaller seed cavity and is known for slicing and eating fresh.

Green Finger: Commonly used to make pickles. Can be grown with or without a trellis.

Capsicum

Commonly known as "Pepper"

We have three different types of peppers in the greenhouse this year. They require a lot of nitrogen to produce their peppers so they like soil that has high organic matter or when you add a lot of nitrogen fertilizers. They will keep flowering and producing peppers until temperatures drop. Peppers have a good root trait to be able to be grown in containers, making them able to be grown on your patio.

The Basics

Water: Moderate

Sunlight: Minimum of 6 but as much as possible

Upkeeping: Low to none

Fun Fact

There have been studies that link the consumption of peppers to increase oral hygiene.

Pepper Varieties We Have This Year

Black Magic: Jalapeño
pepper (2500 SHU)

Revolution II: Red
Sweet Bell Pepper

Yolo Wonder: Green
Sweet Bell Pepper

Citrullus lanatus

Commonly known as "Watermelon"

Watermelon is very similar to cucumber. It is in the same botanical family; there are a few similarities in growing them in your garden. Like a cucumber, watermelon is a vining crop but it is not suggested to be grown on a trellis. The watermelons that are produced will have to be supported and the best way to do that is to leave them on the ground. A basic fertilizer of 20-20-20 would be good for growing vines. Water well and make sure you water where the plant enters the ground. It is important to keep weeds away from watermelons as the weeds can be vectors for disease as well as shade the plant which needs a lot of sun.

The Basics

Water: Moderate but in well water retaining soil
Sunlight: Full sun 6 plus hours
Upkeeping: High (vine maintenance)

Fun Fact

The biggest watermelon grown in MN was 227.5 pounds.

Watermelon Varieties We Have This Year

Sugar Baby: known for being sweet and having compact vines compared to other watermelon varieties.



A message from the grower:

"This weekend all plants were moved into the greenhouse. There are many new flowers so the greenhouse is starting to pop with color. There is less than a month to go before we open for the spring. We wish the FFA members who assisted us this spring with planting good luck for those who are at state this week. We were invited to a friend's house who used to hold the Minnesota record for the largest watermelon (225.0 pounds). We were able to graft a watermelon onto a squash rootstock, which is one way to produce a huge watermelon."

-Jake

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities


Plant Science (Nursery and Floriculture) '23

Minors: Horticulture, Agronomy, Insect Science, and Animal Science



Next Week's Feature Plant: Daisy

1595 5th St SE, Waseca, MN, USA

Check out our site 

This email was created with Wix. [Discover More](#)