Cucumbers are another in-ground or container garden favorite.  They are not at all difficult to grow if you keep in mind that they love warmth, and are very susceptible to frosts and cold weather.  Cucumber seeds require a fairly high soil temperature (20ºC) to germinate properly.  For this reason, they are generally started indoors, and transplanted to the garden.  Cucumbers do not grow well in cold soil either.  Utilizing raised beds and/or plastic mulch can be beneficial. Maturity dates are generally indicated from transplant date (not seeding or germination date).  Weather conditions will greatly affect these date estimates, as well as overall production.

Cucumbers are typically planted in 'hills' or groups.  The number of plants per hill depends on the variety being planted, as does the distance between hills and/or rows.  (Although there is nothing to stop you from planting a row of individual plants).  Cucumbers prefer slightly acidic soil (pH 6-6 ½); and should not be transplanted out to the garden until the soil is warm and all danger of frost has passed. This avoids cool night temperatures that may cause blossoms to drop off before they have had a chance to be pollinated, since pollinators (bees, other insects) are not as active during cooler or wet weather.  A prolonged period of cool and rainy weather can set your cucumbers back dramatically.

Cucumbers generally grow on long vines, although new 'semi-bush' and 'bush' hybrids are being developed, which may be preferred by container gardeners and commercial growers that wish to machine harvest.  Providing something (fencing, lattice, or netting) for your cucumber vines to climb on will keep the cucumber itself off the ground as well as save a lot of space in your garden.  For cucumber plants that are not supported, putting straw, wood chips, mulch or even geo-fabric around the plants will help to keep weeds at bay as well as keeping the cucumbers themselves out of the dirt. Cucumbers can also be successfully grown in containers.

There are many, many varieties of cucumbers to choose from.  The number of plants that you plan to be growing is an important point to keep in mind.  Monoecious varieties have separate male and female flowers on the same plant.  If you are only growing a few plants you may wish to insure you have a monoecious variety.  The other option is to grow a parthenocarpic variety, which does not require pollination.  However, these must be isolated from any other cucumber variety to prevent damaging cross-pollination.  This may require growing your plants under netting to prevent bees and other insects from pollinating these flowers.

If you are growing many plants (to produce cucumbers for pickling, perhaps), you could choose a gynoecious variety, which produces all female flowers (providing increased yields), but requires that male pollinator plants be present.  Gynoecious cucumber varieties are often sold with a small percentage of male pollinator plant seeds in the package.  You must plant a sufficient number of plants to ensure that there are indeed 'pollinator plants' present. If you have ever grown a cucumber plant that produced a lot of flowers, but no cucumbers; this could be why.

There are 'white-spined' and 'black-spined' cucumbers.  It is the black-spined that begin to turn golden yellow at maturity, while white-spined keep their green/white colour.  Burpless cucumbers are a slicing cucumber that does not have a bitter tasting skin (which causes mild indigestion in some cases).  The skin tends to be thin, and they are mild and sweet tasting.  Be sure to grow these on a trellis of some sort.  The cucumbers are long, and need to 'hang' in order to stay straight.  If grown on the ground, they will be curled and misshapen.  Seedless (or 'European') cucumber plants must be isolated from pollen sources so pollination does not occur.  Any male flowers that may appear must be plucked off. These are typically grown in screened-in greenhouses so insects cannot enter.

Cucumbers, like most vegetables, should be picked when mature, encouraging the plant to continue producing.

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