



Cucumber Production in the Easter Region

IDEA-NEW

Cucumber Production in the Eastern Region

- Qarghaee and Mehtarlam districts are the main production areas in ER
- Cucumber can be planted since February until October (Spring – Summer season and early Fall season)
- Warm season crop, however can grow in cool weather



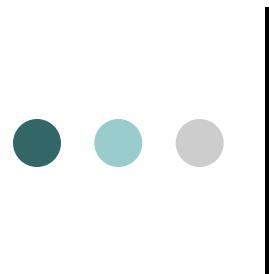
Cucumber Production in the Eastern Region

- Short growing cycle 45 - 70 days
- Seed germinates above 11°C, the best temperature for growing is 18 – 24°C.
- Male: female ratio:
 - High temp and long days increase male flowers development
 - Low temp and short days increase female flowers
- Extremely high temperatures affect quality (light green fruit and bitterness)



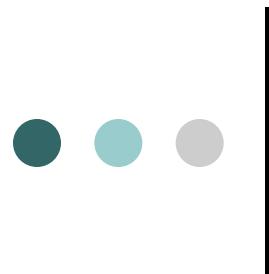
Cucumber on raised beds





Fertilization

- Apply and incorporate Animal manure into the soil during land preparation: 5 - 7 MT/jerib
- 1 bag of DAP and $\frac{1}{2}$ bag of urea should be added before planting
- At the first cutting, $\frac{1}{2}$ a bag of urea should be top-dressed.



Weed Control

- Weeds control
 - Hand-weeding:
 - common method used in ER,
 - early during growing stage, 2-3 times per cycle
 - Herbicides:
 - Glyphoset, and Paraquat may be used
 - Follow label instructions

Red Pumpkin Beetle

- Common pest on cucurbits, attacks cotyledons
- Control:
 - Lindane, 1%
 - Carbaryl 4 g/liter
 - Malation,
 - Larsben &
 - Cypermethrine 3-4 cc/liter



Cutworms

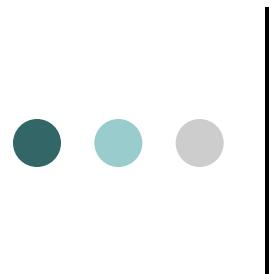
- Main pest in ER for many crops
 - Young plants are cut off at or below crown
- Mechanic control
 - Destroy previous crop plant residues
 - Before planting eliminates weeds within & around field
- Chemical control
 - After planting distribute baits in the field late afternoon



Aphids

- Melon aphids are common in cucumber crop
 - Suck plant sap, leaves curl downwards
 - Heavy populations cause plants to yellow and wilt
 - Greatest *Aphis* damage is indirect, they transmit viruses
 - Scouting, keep population low, spraying





Diseases

- Cucumbers are affected by various disorders cause by *fungi*, *bacteria*, *viruses*, *phytoplasmas* and *nematodes*
- Susceptible to *nutrient deficiencies* and *toxic materials*

Powdery Mildew

- Widespread disease during dry hot periods
 - Characterized by a white or brownish mealy grow found on upper and lower side of the leaves and young stems
- Control:
 - Spray wettable sulfur (0.2%) two or three times at 20 day interval
 - Copper oxichloride 3-4g/liter
 - Ofogan 1g/liter



Downy mildew

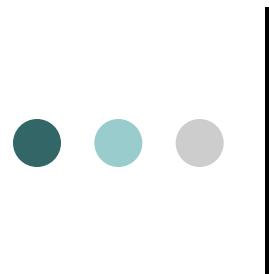
- Symptoms

- Irregular to angular, yellow to brownish spots on leaves upper side
- Underside of the leaves, pale-grayish purple mold
- Spots enlarge during warm, moist weather
- Entire vine dies

- Control:

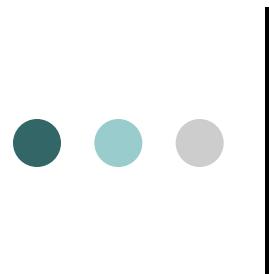
- Provide enough space to plants in rows and inter rows to allow them to dry quickly
- Mancozeb (0.1%) + Metalaxyl 0.05%), 10 days
- Mancozeb (01%) + Chlorothalonil, 10 days





Harvest and Handling

- Fruits are harvested immature
- Firmness and external glossiness and gel formation around the seeds are indicators of maturity
- Cucumbers are harvested every other day to pick a good percentage of good quality
- Fruit should not be pulled from vine, push the stem off with the thumb
- Harvest early in the morning



Harvest and Handling

- Use proper and clean containers for harvesting (plastic containers)
- Keep the harvest in a fresh place
- Handle the boxes properly
- Sort and grade the fruits by length, fruit color, shape, and diameter
- Protect the harvest from dust, and weather with a cover during transportation

Cucumbers Recently Harvested

