

# Cucumber Seed Harvesting

## Growing and Harvesting Cucumber Seed

NDSU Extension – Cavalier County

### Tips and Tricks

Be very careful when transplanting the cucumber plants.

Cucumber plants will not grow and seeds will not germinate when the soil is cold.

Let the cucumber ripen to a yellow or orange before harvesting the seeds.

Seeds must go through the fermentation process to be viable.



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### Planting Cucumber

Be sure to follow the planting instructions on either the original seed packets or the seed envelopes checked out from the Cavalier County library.

### In-Season Considerations

Carefully transplant cucumber plants to prevent damage. Thoroughly water (need one inch per week for proper growth). Keep different varieties at least ½ mile away to avoid cross pollination.

### Harvesting Cucumber Seed

- Leave a couple of cucumbers on the plant to continue ripening.
- The cucumbers will turn yellow or orange and lose firmness as the seeds mature.
- Wait a few weeks until after the color changes before harvesting.
- Cut the harvested cucumber in half lengthwise and scoop out the seed and pulp from the seed cavity.
- Put into an open container like a glass jar.
- Allow the seed/pulp mixture to sit for up to 3 days at room temperature away from heat and light in order for a fermentation process to take place.
- Add some water and stir. Viable seeds will settle to the bottom and pulp will rise to the top.
- Carefully pour off the top layer and then drain the rest, leaving the viable seeds.
- Rinse thoroughly in colander or strainer.
- Spread seed out in a single layer on a tray and dry thoroughly in a cool, dark place.
- A suggested minimum return amount is 1/8 teaspoon.

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