CROP GUIDE - Cucumber (G/H)

Sampling Notes

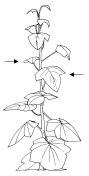
KB Item: 3454v3

The nutritional status of this vegetable crop is monitored using soil tests and plant analysis. Monitoring regularly is important to help sustain optimum levels and avoid nutritional disorders. If disorders do occur, rapid diagnosis is necessary to assist correction.

Cucumber can be grown under glass or as a field crop. The interpretive data provided in test reports are for glasshouse crops.

Leaf

Sampling Time:	Early flowering.
Plant Part	Youngest mature leaf (blade & petiole).
Collect From:	30-45 cm from the growth tip of the plant.
Quantity per Sample:	20 leaves.
Recommended Tests:	Basic Plant (BP), Molybdenum (Mo).
Comments:	To help diagnose an obvious problem, leaves showing the first signs of the distinctive symptoms should be collected as soon as abnormalities appear. If sampling outside the normal sampling time it is useful to take a second sample of similar, healthy leaves from nearby unaffected plants for analysis as a comparative standard.



Soil

Sampling Time:	Prior to crop establishment
Core Depth	15cm
Collect From:	Randomly throughout the area to be planted
Quantity per Sample:	12 - 20 cores
Recommended Tests:	Basic Soil (BS), Soluble Salts (SSg)
Comments:	If a problem is suspected during the growing season, then a sample should be taken from the rooting zone immediately adjacent to the plant. Collecting a second sample from an unaffected area may help identify the cause of the problem.

Comments

Glasshouse cucumber tend to have higher nutrient levels than field grown crops.

Cucumber are more sensitive to salt stress than tomatoes.

Magnesium is a common disorder of cucumbers, causing a mottled chlorosis and brown spotting of the leaves.

Manganese and molybdenum deficiencies have been reported for cucumber crops.

Results for copper, zinc and manganese in leaves sprayed with fungicides will not be reliable due to adhering spray residues on the leaves.

Iron deficiency symptoms may exist even when leaf levels appear satisfactory. This may be due to the presence of physiologically inactive forms of iron within the tissue. Also, soil contamination of leaves growing near the ground may elevate total iron results.

References

Fertiliser recommendation for horticultural crops. HortResearch HortNET, 1997.

Blackmore, L.C; Searle, P.L and Daly, B.K. 1987. Methods for chemical analysis of soils. NZ Soil Bureau Scientific Report 80. NZ Soil Bureau, DSIR.

Disclaimer

Normal Range levels shown as histograms in test reports relate specifically to the sampling procedure provided in this crop guide. The Normal Range levels in test reports and Comments provided in this Crop Guide are the most up to date available, but may be altered without notification. Such alterations are implemented immediately in the laboratory histogram reports. It is recommended that a consultant or crop specialist be involved with interpretations and recommendations.