Lebanese Cucumber

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Site Selection: Site should be clean and free from sticks and soil should be well-drained.

Wind Breaks: Should be established around each planting. Best grown in shade houses with 50% green/black shade cloth.

Ground Preparation: Soil is to be ripped and disced to 20 cm. Break hardpans. Adjust pH to about 6.5 with Ag-lime where necessary. Apply superphosphate at 60 g/m^2 and high analysis N:P:K at 60 g/m$^{2.}$

Form hills to 40 cm wide, 0.5 m high and 1.5–2 m apart and incorporate every 30–40 cm. Construct a vertical trellis with mesh or overhead structure with strings.

Varieties: These change from year to year. Contact commercial seed suppliers.

Plant Spacings: Plant seeds in seed trays 5-8 mm deep and plant out as soon as a good root ball has formed. 30–40 cm between plants along the row. 2.0-2.5 m between rows to suit machinery access in the field. 1.2-1.5 m between rows in a shade house to allow trolley access.

Irrigation: Water two or three times/day with high flow drip tape or drippers, for approximately 40-60 min/day. Use an organic mulch like hay or dump mulch, if not using plastic mulch. Increase the irrigation as the plant increases in size or evaporation increases. Monitor the soil using tensiometers to keep the moisture in the root zone.

Nutrition: Pre-flowering - inject at least twice weekly via irrigation at 25N:6P:15K (kg/ha/week). Fruit production - inject at least twice weekly via irrigation at 12N:6P:25K (kg/ha/week). Inject trace elements in 2 pre-flowering fertigations at 10Zn:8Mn: 4Fe: 2B (kg/ha/crop). Monitor the nutrition of commercial crops with petiole sap testing for nutrients.

Pruning and Training: Train the young plants up a string by wrapping it around the stem. As the plant grows remove the bottom leaves up to 5-7 nodes. Multi-fruiting types like Montana and Khassib are self-pruning. All laterals up to 7 node should be removed on single fruiting types like Deltastar. Laterals after this should be stopped at 2-3 leaves.

Pests: Ginger ants, pumpkin beetle, caterpillars, twenty-eight spot lady bird and aphids.

Diseases: Powdery mildew, downy mildew, gummy stem blight and watermelon mosaic virus.

Common Problems: Lebanese cucumbers will bend with any skin damage during fruit growth. Skin damage can be caused by wind, insects, machinery and pickers. Lebanese cucumbers do not need to be pollinated.

Harvesting: Harvest cucumbers at market size and handle carefully to avoid skin damage. Cool quickly to 10°C and store in 10-12°C at 90 - 95% relative humidity. Crop cycle 10–21 weeks. Growth for 3–4 weeks, production for 7–17 weeks.

References:

http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/horticulture/4852.html
http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/thematiclists/1186.html
http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/business/15260.html