

# hybrid cucumber seed production

jw seeds



## Stock seed

Receiving of seed no later than beginning of July. Amount of seed needed per tunnel - male line 0.017 - 0.020 kg (fl 400- 500 seeds) and female line 0.055 - 0.06 kg (fl 1200 - 1300 seeds). This is only a guideline, as we also request more seed as needed.

## Sowing period

Parent line A - beginning to middle of August (depending on protocol of client). Parent line B - beginning to middle of September (depending on protocol of client).



## Nursery

Located in George, as close as possible to the sea/ocean (frost free area and high relative humidity).



## Tunnel information

Average area of tunnels: 240m<sup>2</sup> Average of 500 plants per tunnel. Plastic tunnels with no fans or heaters - manual ventilation. Insect proof netting. Tunnel floor area isolated with white plastic. Watering and nutrition provided by drip-irrigation.



## Transplanting in tunnel

Transplanting in black plastic planting bags, filled with wooden sawdust. 20% of tunnel area to be transplanted by males and 80% of tunnel area by female line. Male line transplanted from beginning to middle of September. Female line transplanted from beginning to middle of October.



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## Pollination

When female line plants reach a growth stage of ff18 nodes (ff120-140cm), the pollination starts. All pollination is done by hand. Pollinated plants are marked by markers.



## Disease and pest control

Pythium control after transplanting. Powdery mildew and botrytis control on a 14 day interval, if necessary.

## Crop handling

Plants are attached to ropes, that are attached to horizontal wires. Plants are fitted by loops in the ropes, to prevent sliding down of the plants along the ropes.



## Seed harvest

10 weeks after the start of hand pollination, the first 60% of fruits are harvested. Seeds are to be extracted from ripened fruit. Hand extraction and fermentation is used.



## Seed yield

35 000 - 83 000 seeds/kg.

## Additional data

The average amount of fruit per plant = 14, given

an average of 80 seeds/fruit, which is equals to 1.

## Purity and germination

Seed lots are analysed for purity (~100%) and germination (>95%) at the official laboratory in Oudtshoorn.

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