

Cucurbits

Sampling & Growth Stages

**Cucumber, Marrow, Melon,
Pumpkin, Squash, Zucchini**

Timing: Begin sampling at stage 1.5 and continue fortnightly until stage 7.9.

Sampling volume: 20 - 40 petioles depending on size

Sampling: Collect the Youngest Fully Expanded Leaf (YFEL), usually the fourth or fifth leaf back from the growing point of the plant. Return to the same sampling area for subsequent samples

Plant part for analysis: Remove the leaf blade, retaining the petiole (leaf stalk) for analysis

| Primary Stage | Secondary Stage | Description | Comments |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 | | | Leaf development |
| | 1.5 | Early Vegetative Growth | 5th true leaf on main stem fully unfolded |
| | 1.9 | | 9 or more leaves on main stem |
| 2 | | | Formation of side shoots |
| | 2.1 | Vegetative Growth | First primary side shoot visible |
| | 2.9 | | 9 or more primary side shoots visible |
| 5 | | | Inflorescence emergence |
| | 5.1 | Inflorescence emergence | First flower initial with elongated ovary visible on main stem |
| | 5.5 | | 5 th flower initial with elongated ovary visible on main stem |
| | 5.52 | | First flower initial with elongated ovary visible on secondary stem |
| 6 | | | Flowering |
| | 6.1 | Flowering | First flower open on main stem |
| | 6.5 | | 5 th flower open on main stem |
| | 6.9 | | 9 th flower open on main stem |
| 7 | | | Development of fruit |
| | 7.1 | Fruit Growth | Fruit on main stem has reached 10% of typical size and form |
| | 7.3 | | Fruit on main stem has reached 30% of typical size and form |
| | 7.5 | | Fruit on main stem has reached 50% of typical size and form |
| | 7.9 | | Fruits on main stem have reached typical size and form |
| 8 | | | Ripening of fruit |
| | 8.1 | Maturing | 10% of fruits show typical fully ripe colour |
| | 8.3 | | 30% of fruits show typical fully ripe colour |
| | 8.7 | | 70% of fruits show typical fully ripe colour |
| | 8.9 | | Harvest |

Growth Stage numbering system is in accordance to the extended BBCH, a uniform coding of phenologically similar growth stages for all plant species

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