

SOIL TEST INFORMATION SHEET NO. V-320

Prepared by Extension Horticulturist James Boudreaux and modified by Research Coordinator Christine Coker

Cucumbers and Squash

1. These crops are sensitive to strongly acid soils, pH below 5.0. Production may be limited if soil is too acid. Apply agricultural limestone if soil pH is below 5.5. Soils low in magnesium should be limed with dolomitic limestone. Apply lime 2 to 6 months before planting.
2. Apply 25 to 50 pounds of nitrogen per acre and all of the phosphorus and potassium prior to planting.
3. **Nitrogen sidedressing**

Cucumbers: Apply 30 to 50 pounds per acre nitrogen sidedressing about the time plants begin to vine or 2 to 3 weeks after planting. Trellis cucumbers should receive an additional 20 to 30 pounds nitrogen 2 to 3 weeks after the first application.

Squash: apply 30-50 pounds per acre nitrogen sidedressing as plants bunch and before blooms are visible 2 to 3 weeks after planting.

4. Cucumber and squash grown with drip irrigation can be sidedressed by injecting nitrogen fertilizer with the irrigation water. This process is called fertigation. Apply 10 to 12 pounds of nitrogen per acre per week. Start fertigation 2 to 3 weeks after planting and continue for 10-11 weeks.
5. Many growers apply all nitrogen preplant (60 to 100 pounds per acre) especially for summer planting cucumbers and squash, since production can begin in 30-35 days from planting. They find this more convenient instead of trying to time a sidedressing.
6. Contact your county agent for additional information and help in your fertilization program. The agent also receives a copy of this report for the parish office files.