



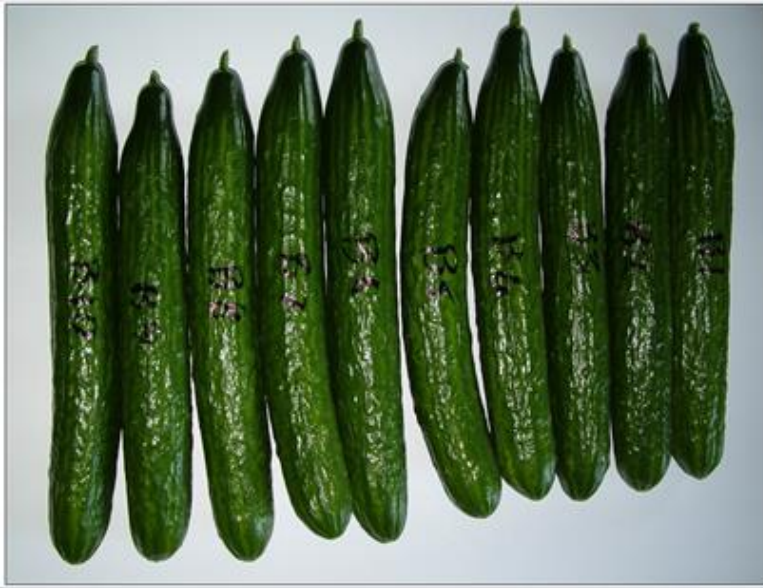
CUCUMBER
GROWERS'

ASSOCIATION

Keeping Cucumbers Fresh

With and Without Plastic

Note: The plastic used to shrink wrap cucumbers is less than the total weight of plastic crate liner and pallet wrap needed for naked cucumbers.



Naked cucumbers
immediately after harvest
average weight 370g



Shrink wrapped
cucumbers immediately
after harvest
average weight 390g



Wrapped (left) and naked
(right) cucumbers 14
days later



Wrapped cucumbers 14 days later – note much less dehydration of pedicel and whole fruit compared to naked fruit - but some loss of colour.

Weight loss after 3 days
1.6g (0.4%)

Weight loss after 14 days 3.2g (0.8%)

Naked cucumbers 14 days later note considerable dehydration of pedicel and whole fruit compared to wrapped fruit and considerable loss of colour.

One thing that cannot be shown is how soft these fruits are.

Weight loss after 3 days
6.8g (1.9%)



The deterioration is noticeable after 3 days with much loss of moisture from the naked fruit compared to wrapped fruit. Refrigeration did not slow this moisture loss. The factor that cannot be shown in photographs is the amount of softness (bend) in each fruit.

After two days there was 22% more bend in the naked fruit – this increased to 129% by day five.

The comparison only got worse!

Derek Hargreaves Technical Officer CGA