



Kids IN THE Garden

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



~Cucumber Trellis~

UPCYCLED MATERIALS ON-HAND

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Hi Kids!

We are in my small home garden, accessing the cucumber plants. To keep them happy, an a-frame will help raise the fruit – yes, cucumbers are fruit – off the ground.

UPCYCLE — So what can we find around my house to upcycle for a cucumber trellis? Why, of course, plastic trellis from a previous project that I found in my barn!

In the photos you will see how I also found some 1" x 1" wood to create the a-frame. By screwing the trellis material to the wood, a diamond shape is created to form the a-frame for the cucumber plants to grow vertically – upward – in the garden.

After measuring I decided to go no higher than 2 feet to prevent bowing and instability of the plastic material. That also leaves trellis for another project. The 1" x 1" wood was in three different lengths, so I used the two shorter pieces to provide stability at the ends. I can secure the center if needed.

FUN QUESTION: Why grow cucumbers vertically?

Growing cucumbers vertically allows for more air circulation and sunlight for the cucumber leaves. It also allows for space in your garden, producing larger fruit with an easier harvest. You also can plant shade loving vegetables or herbs under the trellis. Some herbs or flowers, such as marigolds, will keep the bugs away with their scent. (BGW)

Turn the page to see how our project progresses . . .

The Process Making a Cucumber Trellis

To Start

— Gather your supplies, plan your project.

Upcycle
Materials at Home
Get Creative!

Safety is important, so have a parent assist. Wear proper shoes, gloves, eye and breathing protection. Remember to measure twice and cut once! It saves time and materials.

I measured and cut the trellis with a hand saw through the joints of the trellis. It is plastic, so was easy to cut quickly and safely without a power saw. After screwing the 2" x 4" trellis pieces to the 1 x 1 wood pieces with stainless screws — using my power drill.



Photo: K. Bentz, Extension Program Assistant, UF/IFAS Extension Service Martin, 4-H



Photo: K. Bentz

I now am ready to place over the plants, with a few adjustments. I then gently wove the plants through the openings on-hand. You can see the attach themselves naturally



Photo: K. Bentz

onto the trellis securing with coated twine cucumbers tendrils — curlicues — ready to for further stability on the trellis.



Photo: K. Bentz

The finished project with cucumbers ready to thrive in the sun for eventual harvest. Getting them off the ground creates more options and helps with managing pests and fungal problems for the plants.



Photo: K. Bentz

They look to be happy. I will keep you updated with photo on the Kids Team page.

Check out the flyers on Counter Composting, Turnip Terrariums, Soap Deterrent and other fun **Kids in the Garden** activities, along with the Global Gardening plant sheets. Enjoy!

Explore Ideas to Create Your Own Unique Trellis

Sticks

Pallets

Old Fence Panel

Chicken/Fencing Wire

An Old Ladder

An Old Chair

Twine

Old Hose

Jump Rope

Hula Hoops

Tomato Cages

Recycled Lumber or PVC



<https://www.pinterest.com.au/janisragusa66031/pumpkin-trellis/>

Kids IN THE Garden

References

Balcony Garden Web (BGW): <https://balconygardenweb.com/growing-cucumbers-vertically/>
Pinterest, AU: <https://www.pinterest.com.au/janisragusa66031/pumpkin-trellis/>
Photos: K. Bentz, UF/IFAS Extension Service Martin, 4-H