

Thanet cucumbers lead the way for the UK crop of 2018

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The arrival of the first UK-grown cucumbers each year is a much welcomed moment in the retail calendar. Once the British harvest begins then we can reduce our reliance on imported products and their associated food miles.

For 2018 there's an estimated 10% increase in the number of cucumbers grown in the UK, thanks to the opening of a new greenhouse at Thanet Earth. In a UK first, the greenhouse is equipped with sodium lights to provide extra light and warmth through the winter months and with diffuse glass for better distribution of light. The 6.1ha greenhouse is expected to begin its harvest in the first week of February.

There are now two cucumber-growing greenhouses at Thanet Earth with over 12ha growing area in total. Across the UK it's estimated that there are now just over 100ha* of cucumber greenhouses in commercial production, so the Thanet Earth addition brings welcome new volumes to market. Thanet Earth cucumber production uses a high wire growing system that's considerably higher yielding than conventional systems; grower Arjan de Gier is able to produce significant volumes of consistently top class product in his sustainable but intensive growing system.

Speaking ahead of the first harvest Arjan said: "Since we began planning our business here in Thanet almost ten years ago, we've aspired to have two greenhouses in production for cucumbers. I'm pleased we've achieved this goal, developing our reputation for innovation and investment in technology too."



Arjan de Gier

* data from DEFRA and Cucumber Growers Association

Information for Editors

About Thanet Earth

Making the most of the coastal setting and amazing natural light in Thanet is a development of greenhouses near Birchington. Inside these immense glass structures, expert growers are producing delicious speciality tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers for sale to the public through the UK's multiple retailers.

Thanet Earth is the UK's newest and largest facility of its kind. Not just a grower and packer of salad crops, the site is also a power station, housing Combined Heat and Power technology that's generating electricity for homes in Thanet every day. An environmentally-friendly site that makes use of rainwater harvesting, water recycling and natural pest control, Thanet Earth has a very low carbon footprint.

The site currently houses 6 greenhouses, having begun production in 2009. The site will eventually be extended to a total of 7 greenhouses, all growing either tomatoes, peppers or cucumbers.

Tomatoes are grown all year round, using lights in the winter months to aid plant growth. Cucumbers and peppers are produced for 10 months of the year, from February to November. Cucumber production is also assisted by sodium lighting in the winter months to help extend the growing season.

More information from www.thanetearth.com and our education website for schools: www.discoverthanetearth.com

Further information available from:

Judy Whittaker, Communications Manager on –
07918 194998 or press@thanetearth.com