

PEPPERS

Varieties

Green Bell: Encore, King Arthur, Karma, Aristotle, Revolution.

Yellow Bell: Lafayette, Admiral, Gloria, Gemini, Early Sunsation, Aladdin.

Red Bell: Brigadier, Encore, King Arthur, Aristotle.

Orange Bell: Ariane.

Sweet Yellow: Sweet Banana, Banana Supreme, Jumbo Stuff.

Pimento: Jumbo Cheese.

Hot Red : Cayenne Long Slim, Super Chili, Ring of Fire.

Hot Yellow: Midas Golden.

Jalapeno: VTR#7, Grande, Villano.

See your seed dealer for the most recent variety recommendations.

Seed Treatment

Use seed treated with captan or Thiram seed protectants.

Temperature Requirements

Peppers are warm-temperature vegetables and require a long growing season. Transplants which are grown under glass should be kept close to the following temperatures:

18 to 24°C during the day.

16 to 18°C during the night.

Planting

About 200 to 275 g of seed are required for a hectare of plants. Sow in the greenhouse 8 weeks before field transplanting. Peppers should be grown in plug trays to minimize root damage at transplanting. Large cell sizes such as 72s or 98s result in sturdy, early-producing plants, but because of higher costs are generally only used for early plantings. Cell sizes of 200 or more are often used for later plantings. Smaller cells are more cost-effective, but require a high level of management to obtain quality plants. Harden transplants for about a week before transplanting to the field by reducing

the moisture and maintaining a temperature of 13 to 18°C. This will give resistance to transplant shock. Growing peppers using plasticulture provides many benefits. See “Plasticulture”, Chapter 5.

Spacing

Rows 75 to 90 cm apart, plants in the row 30 to 40 cm apart. If planting on a plastic mulch, a double-row system is used with double rows 45 cm apart.

Fertilizer

A soil test is necessary to determine phosphate and potash requirements. See page 13 for recommendations based on soil test results.

Broadcast and disc in 100 kg/ha (40 kg/acre)

nitrogen and all the required phosphate and potash.

Side-dress with 40 kg/ha (16 kg/acre) of nitrogen after the first flowers are set.

If mulching and trickle irrigation are used, nutrients should be delivered by fertigation. See “Fertigation”, Chapter 5.

Weed Control

Effective weed control and other benefits can be obtained by using black or wavelength selective plastic mulch. See “Plastic Mulches” Chapter 5. See Table 7.44 for chemical controls. See also the fold-out chart inside the back cover.