

GROWING PEPPERS

A QUICK GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS



WHAT'S IMPORTANT?

There are several things that will contribute to the health and success of your peppers.

LIGHT

Like any living plant, peppers need light to grow. If starting seeds indoors, you'll be using grow lights until your plants are ready to go outside. They will require a slow transition to the natural sun. This is called "hardening them off". When your peppers graduate to the garden, they'll thrive best in **full sun**.

SOIL AND NUTRIENTS

When starting seeds indoors, use a fertilizer-free seed starter. As your peppers mature, you'll want to use a nutrient-rich soil. You'll also be fertilizing your peppers to keep them happy and healthy during each stage of growth. Peppers need a combination of phosphorus, nitrogen, potassium, magnesium and calcium.

WATER

One of the most common problems with new pepper growers is over-watering. Peppers prefer conditions more on the dry side. Allow the first inch of soil to dry between waterings. Water in the early morning or evening to avoid burning leaves. Listen to the plant! They will need more water when it's hot and sunny.



COMMON PROBLEMS

Many problems may arise when growing peppers.

CURLING LEAVES

Many things can cause your peppers leaves to curl. If the leaves are curling upward like a taco shell, they may be getting too much light. Another common cause of leaf curling is over-watering. If neither of these are the issue, the curling may be the result of a nutrient deficiency or insect damage.

YELLOWING LEAVES

The main cause of leaves turning yellow is a nutrient deficiency. Be sure to use good soil and maintain a well-rounded fertilizing schedule to keep your plants healthy.

PESTS

There are many insects that can wreck havoc on your healthy pepper plants. Keep pests away with ladybugs or try our homemade pest spray:

1-2 Tablespoons Castile Soap

1 Tablespoon 100% Cold Pressed Neem Oil

1 Gallon Lukewarm Water



GROWING PEPPERS FROM SEED: THE BASICS

THINGS TO CONSIDER:

How much space do I have?

Which varieties do I want to plant?

Can I provide adequate aeration for my seedlings?

Will my peppers stay in containers or be transplanted into the ground?

BUY YOUR SEEDS: It all starts with a seed! We typically buy our seeds online or use seeds from our previous harvest. Check our website for our favorite places to buy pepper seeds.

PLANTING SEEDS FOR GERMINATION: Choosing when to plant your peppers depends on where you live. Seeds should be started 8-10 weeks before the last Spring frost.

Fill seed trays with pre-moistened seed starter soil and plant 2-3 seeds in each cell. The depth should be approximately 0.5 cm with just a light covering of soil. Water thoroughly after planted.

CHOOSING SOIL: You'll want to keep your soil moist, humid, and warm.

Once your seeds sprout, they'll want lots of light! Check our website for our favorite grow-light recommendations.



GROWING PEPPERS FROM SEED: THE BASICS (CONT.)

FERTILIZE AND WATER: Peppers need a consistent schedule of both water and fertilizer to thrive. Young plants don't need as many nutrients, so you'll want to be careful not to over-feed. When growing peppers in pots, you won't need as much fertilizer as you would in the ground.

Be careful not to over-water your plants, especially indoors. Peppers prefer to be on the drier side.

TRANSPLANTING: After your seedlings have grown for a few weeks, its time for their new home. We like to transplant our peppers into 4" containers for a short while before transplanting into their final containers, or the ground.

HARVESTING: After all your hard work and patience, its time to harvest!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR GROWING PEPPERS.

Which pepper is easiest to grow? Jalapeno, Banana, and Serrano peppers are a great place to start if you're new to growing. The plants are typically easy to find and can be quite prolific at harvest time. If you're growing from seed, these varieties also tend to germinate well.

How long do peppers take to grow? Sweet peppers typically mature within 2-3 months. Hot varieties can take much longer.

What temperatures do peppers thrive in? Peppers are happiest in sunny climates with a temperature of 70-80 degrees F. If its going to be scorching hot, you may want to move your plants into the shade. If it's going to be too cold, you can bring them inside. Do not let the temperatures drop below 50 degrees F.

What size container should I plant peppers in? We suggest using a container that is 3-5 gallons in size.



MEET THE PEPPER GEEKS



CALVIN



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We hope this guide provided you with some useful information and got you excited to grow peppers! For more information on how to grow peppers, be sure to check out our gardening articles at **peppergeek.com**.

We also post video tutorials on our youtube channel. **[youtube.com/peppergeek](https://www.youtube.com/peppergeek)**.

If you have any questions about some of the information in this guide, feel free to reach out at **hello@peppergeek.com**.

Thanks for reading and happy growing!

Calvin & Crystalyn

