



# Pepper

Produced by:



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CONNECTION

## When to Start Seeds:

Plant seeds indoors in late March/early April

## When to Plant Starts or Seedlings Outdoors:

June 1, using plants that are at least 8 weeks old

## Container Size for Container Gardening:

Use a 8-10 gallon container that is approximately 12-14 inches wide and 16 inches deep

## Ground Spacing for In-Ground Gardening:

18-24 inches of space between plants

<b>Hours of Sunlight:</b>	12+ per day
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<b>Amount of Water:</b>	9-12 cups per week
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## Harvest:

### Days Until Harvest: 60-90 days from planting outdoors

All peppers start out green and will eventually become white, yellow, orange, red, or purple. You can harvest peppers when they are green or allow them to stay on the plant and ripen. Once the pepper reaches its ripe color, harvest immediately, and check plant daily for ripe fruit. Cradle fruit in your hand and pull down slightly and away from the plant or use scissors to cut. Wash fruit before eating.



The information provided in this card is not exact for every growing experience and was designed for Champaign, Illinois in Zone 5b. You should read your seed packet or consult your local Extension agent for questions specific to your growing conditions.

**Planting:**

Plant seeds in 2-inch square by 3-inch deep containers with potting soil or seed starting mix. Seeds should be planted 1/4 inch below the soil and kept damp and warm (86 degrees Fahrenheit) until plants appear. After the danger of frost has passed, overnight temperatures are around 50 degrees Fahrenheit, and plants are 8 weeks old, you can plant in ground 18-24 inches apart or one plant per 12- or 14-inch wide by 16-inch deep container.

**Care:**

Keep the area around the plant free of weeds. Use a liquid fertilizer 4 weeks after growing begins. Give plants a little water every 3-4 days, either from rain or faucet, trying to maintain about 9-12 cups of water per week. Water plants in the morning, if possible, since plants produce nutrients during the day and need water to do this.

**Pests & Disease:**

Watch for tomato hornworms feeding on leaves and damaging fruit or killing plants. Remove by hand and smash, use for fishing bait, or dispose of away from garden plants. Birds and squirrels may also try to take a bite out of your peppers. Use shiny objects, netting, or screen to keep them away. Many diseases can be managed by providing fertilizer and water regularly, having good airflow without overcrowded plants, and keeping water off of the leaves.

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