

HOW TO GROW-SWEET PEPPERS

Fun fact-sweet peppers are native to Mexico , Central and South American region from where they spread to the rest of the world by Spanish and Portuguese explorers during 16th and 17th centuries

15, July, 2020

The basic growing information



- *Sowing- Late February to March*
- *Where to grow- sunny and warm location, does not drop below 16 celsius in pots.*
- *temperature 18-21 celsius for germination. Growing temperatures of 16-21.*

SOWING AND GROWING

You should sow them late February to March in seed trays. Sweet pepper seeds need a consistent temperature of 18 celsius up, This way you will get a reliable amount germinating. If you have a warm house then that should be enough, otherwise it might help investing in a heated mat to sit the seed trays on. Sit the seed tray in a warm, light area and wait for germination. This can take 1-3 weeks.

To pre-germinate pepper seeds -


A slightly more reliable method of germinating sweet pepper seeds is to pre-germinate them and then sow them, as described above. The steps for pre-germinating sweet pepper seed are easy.

- *Start the process off at the same time you would normally sow the seed*
- *Place the seeds on a damp paper towel in a bowl or container and gently pat them down. Cover with cling film to prevent moisture loss*

(the cling film should not be touching the seeds) and place in a warm area inside the house, a temperature of around 19-22 is ideal.

- *Keep the paper towel moist at all times. The seeds will take on average ten days to germinate, if they haven't germinated after three weeks using this method then suspect that they never will. In this case buy new fresh seeds from a reputable supplier and start the process again.*
- *Germinated seeds will sprout a tiny white root which indicates they are beginning to grow. The roots are difficult to see on white paper towels so keep a good watch on them at least once a day after the first four days.*
- *Immediately the seeds have germinated, sow them as described above*

When large enough to handle plants into individual 8cm small pots, then 15 cm before their final position either a grow bag, a large pot or if its a very warm and good summer outside - although peppers crop more reliably in pots and the uk summer is rarely long enough for reliable cropping.



When they start to flower feed with a tomato fertiliser.

Peppers can reach heights of 60cm, it will help to support them if you put a cane next to the plant. This will stop it bending/snapping during fruit forming.

HOW TO GET PEPPERS TO FORM

To get peppers to fruit they need to be pollinated, to do this it can be by hand using a cotton bud or by misting the plant with water often and the flower itself.



Peppers can get issues with aphids/ greenfly and spider mites.

If you have a problem with aphids, especially around the flowers then spraying with water or water containing insecticidal soap / fairy liquid will help get rid of them.

Prevention of spider mites- mist the plant with water often as they hate humid environments or the use of neem oil.

VARIETIES TO TRY

SMALL VARIETIES FOR POT GROWING-

- *Redskin*
 - *Sweet ingrid*
 - *Mini bell*
 - *roberta*
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Any questions email us at- Cardenden@orevalleyha.org.uk

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