

Easy to grow in a container!

Love the  
Food  
You Eat!

# Growing Peppers

Hot or Sweet Peppers are fun to grow! Plus you can grow them in containers and display them on your patio or deck. The attractive plants with colorful edible fruit make a great addition. The many varieties of sweet and hot peppers thrive on full sun, warm weather, well-drained soil and modest fertility.



## **When & How to Plant:**

Plant 2-3 weeks after the average last frost when the soil has warmed and the weather has settled. Plant 12" to 24" apart, in rows 24" to 36" apart, or spaced about 14" to 16" apart in raised beds. Use black plastic and/or row covers to speed soil warming and early growth. Use caution with row covers not to overheat plants and cause them to drop their blossoms. If not using black plastic, mulch plants after they are well established and the soil has warmed to retain moisture and control weeds.

**Maintenance & Care:** Peppers can be temperamental when it comes to setting fruit if temperatures are too hot or too cool. Nighttime temperatures below 60 degrees or above 75 degrees can reduce fruit size. Too much nitrogen fertilizer can promote lush vegetative growth but fewer fruits. Peppers usually responds well to phosphorus fertilizer. Stake tall varieties for earlier and heavier harvest. Peppers need even moisture for best performance. An even supply can reduce blossom end rot, a disorder caused by lack of calcium.

**Preferred Sunlight:** Full Sun.

**Preferred Soil Conditions:** Well drained, light, moderately fertile soil, high in organic matter. Needs steady supply of water for best performance.



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**Some varieties recommended for New York Include:**

**Early:**

Ace  
Apple  
Golden Bell  
Gypsy  
Lipstick  
New Ace  
Redstart

**Hot:**

Anaheim  
Biscayne  
Cayenne Long  
Habanero  
Hungarian Yellow Wax  
Jalapeno  
Mucho Nacho  
Serrano  
Super Chilli

**Main Season:**

Boynton Bell  
Golden Bell (Yellow)  
King Arthur  
Lady Bell  
Sweet Banana  
Sweet Chocolate  
Yellow Belle II

**Stuffing:**

Joe E. Parker

**Thin Walled Frying Types:**

Cubanelle  
Italian Sweet

**Source:**

**Cornell University, Home Gardening, Vegetable Growing Guides.  
For a complete Growing Guide and additional information visit.**

[www.gardening.cornell.edu](http://www.gardening.cornell.edu)



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