Pepper growing. How to plant, grow and harvest pepper. 1/2

Being an important and nutritious crop, pepper growing and production depends on the type of technology used which affects both quality and quantity.

Pepper belongs to the solanaceous family and is scientifically known as capsicum annuum L. It is a leafy perenial plant with annual dry cycle and it varies between 1.5-2 m in size. Its growth habit is limited and upright. 2-3 shoots branch out from cross and continue branching out dichotomously.

Crop introduction

First, the crop possess a deep rooting system with various roots and it is complete, smooth with pronounced tip and a long petiole line which is not visible. The shaft is smooth and shiny, soft on touch and dark green in colour. Leaf intersection takes place alternately and their size vary using certain correlation between size of plant and average size of fruit.

Additionally, flowers appear singularly at each node of stalk as small and have white corolla. The fruit is a holy berry which vary in colour and seeds are found inside in the centre in an even form in a pale yellow colour and 3-5 mm long.

Management practices

Manage climatic conditions in order for crop management practices to be carried out as the plant requires hot or warm climate. Germination and growth needs 15 degrees centigrade and 18 degrees centigrade for flowering and fruit formation.

Furthermore, Optimum temperature oscillates between 20-26 degrees centigrade. However, High temperatures cause dropping

off of flowers and fruits while temperature changes cause growth imbalances.

Similarly, pepper requires large amount of light especially at first stage of growth and flowering. Optimum relative humidity oscillates between 50-70% and if it is higher, diseases develop which make fertilization difficult.

Finally, pepper requires deep loamy soils which is well drained and rich in organic matter. It also requires a pH of 5.5-7 and it is tolerant to soil salinity as well as salinity of irrigation water used.