

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

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

Peppers are grown in seedbeds during February and March and transplanted 2 months later in a well ventilated soils rich in organic matter. The plant require ample heat and light with 50%-70% of optimum relative humidity.

## Crop planting

Seedlings are placed at a spacing of 40-50 cm in a row between plants and 60-70 cm cm between rows and soils should be loamy-sandy soil rich in organic matter and well drained. However, most common plant spacing is 1×0.5m but this may be reduced to 3 plants per square metre.

Similarly, watering should be carried out moderately on consistent basis and in this, drip irrigation preferable due to possible development of mould. Ridging improves stability of plant and growth of adventitious roots and staking is done to prevent plant from falling.

## Crop management

During pruning, number of stalks are reduced to 2-2 and eliminate diseased leaves and any leaves or buds that appear below cross of plants. At the end of reproductive cycle, debudding of plant is carried out to encourage ripening process and remove any fruit that appear in the first cross. This is to ensure fruiting type is of better quality, shape and comes to fruition area.

Additionally, pepper plant requires nitrogen during first

phase of growth while phosphorous is necessary when first flowers appear and throughout ripening process. Potassium is required to obtain early fruit colour and quality while magnesium is for ripening stage.

Main plagues for pepper are white fly and thrips and they are controlled by use of axillary fauna as biological control. Main diseases are white rot, red rot, soft rot, wilt and bacterial scabies.

Finally, harvesting depends on variety grown, sowing and climate which tend to be in room season.