

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing hot peppers

Peppers may be one of the most popular vegetables gardeners choose to grow, but there is a major difference between growing conventional peppers and hot peppers. Growing hot peppers from seed allows for diversity and spice in dishes, but certain steps must be followed to ensure the best possible outcome.

To plant:

When it comes to growing hot peppers, there are certain types of hot peppers that are easier to grow than others. Typically, hot peppers require warmer soil temperatures to germinate, but certain varieties require warmer temperatures than others. For example, hot peppers like jalapenos, serrano peppers, cayenne peppers, poblano peppers, ornamental peppers and Thai peppers require cooler soil temperatures than other types of hot peppers. Jalapenos and the other peppers in that family only need soil with a temperature of 50 to 70 degrees to germinate. Habaneros, scotch bonnets and other hot peppers require warmer soil to germinate, such as 75 to 90 degrees.

Plant the seeds during the winter months, such as anytime between November and February, to give the seedlings plenty of time to grow before transplanting them outside.

Before planting, soak the seeds overnight in warm water. Soaking the seeds allows them to sprout quicker and better than when not soaking them. You can plant the seeds the morning after soaking them in warm water.



[Hot Pepper seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

You won't immediately plant the seeds outdoors and will instead begin them indoors. Plant the seeds in peat pellets, but follow the instructions on the pellets in order to add water and allow the peat to expand before planting the seeds. Plant three of the same hot pepper seeds in a ¼ inch hole and loosely cover with soil. Do not pat the soil down because you want the seedlings to break through the soil's surface easily.

Apply a soil additive such as Myco Blast immediately after planting the seeds to enrich the soil. Water once a week until the first set of true leaves appear on the seedling.

Since hot peppers take much longer to germinate than other peppers, you can quicken the germination process by placing the peat pellets on a seedling heat mat. This warms the soil and encourages the seeds to germinate faster.



100%
Non-GMO Seed



One Day
Shipping



100%
Satisfaction Guarantee



Family
Owned +Operated

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

Once the seedlings sprout, remove the greenhouse dome that comes with the peat pellets and place them in a well-lit area such as a window. You can also add a grow light to create more light when the sun sets early in the winter months. Mist the seedlings with water to keep the soil moist but not wet.

Once the three seedlings in each cup reach two inches in height, remove all but the strongest seedling.

When seeds reach this stage, you can transplant them into bigger cups.

To grow:

It is time to transplant your seedlings when the last frost has passed and nightly temperatures are above 50 degrees. Plants should be around 8 weeks old and they shouldn't have any blooms yet. If they do have blossoms, pinch off the blossoms prior to transplanting so energy will be directed to adjusting to the transplant.

Before transplanting, harden off your plants by placing them outside in half-hour increments in an area protected from the wind. Gradually increase this time up to 8 hours a day. Hot peppers need temperatures of at least 70 to 80 degrees during the day to grow. To transplant, dig a hole slightly bigger than the size of the seedlings root ball and plant them in the ground. Be sure to space the plants several inches apart.

Keep in mind you will have to water the plants more frequently than when they grew indoors. Since peppers are heavy and their branches are brittle, stake the plants or use



[Hot Pepper seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

cages to support them.

To harvest:

Peppers are ready to harvest when they change color. For jalapenos, this means deepening to a dark green. Other hot peppers will transition from a green color to the color they are supposed to be, such as orange or yellow. To harvest, use gloves when picking and use hand pruners or scissors to snip the pepper from the plant.

What hot peppers crave:

Fertilizing begins when the seedlings are still indoors and the first true set of leaves have appeared. Use a diluted fish emulsion fertilizer. Use ¼ of the strength suggested. When there are four sets of true leaves, fertilize the plants with magnesium sulfate, also known as Epsom salt. Mix a tablespoon of Epsom salt with a gallon of water, shake and apply to the leaves and stem. Be sure the Epsom salt isn't scented. The Epsom salts keep the foliage strong.



100%
Non-GMO Seed



One Day
Shipping



100%
Satisfaction Guarantee



Family
Owned + Operated

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

When transplanting, add bone-meal to the soil because pepper plants eat up lots of calcium as they grow.

Where to buy hot pepper seeds:

Urban Farmer sells many varieties of hot peppers such as jalapeno, serrano, habanero and many more.

Check out our hot pepper seed selection on our website at ufseeds.com!



[Hot Pepper seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)



100%
Non-GMO Seed



One Day
Shipping



100%
Satisfaction Guarantee



Family
Owned +Operated