

# HOT PEPPER (SILI) PRODUCTION

## for Urban and Backyard Gardening



Pepper is one of the common vegetables used in the preparation of sauces, pickles and as flavoring ingredient of various recipes.

Sweet pepper is very rich in Vitamins A, B, and C. It is also a good source of potassium, magnesium and iron. The green leaves are excellent source of calcium.

Hot pepper, is a favorite mix in pinakbet and sinigang because of its aroma. It is also being grown for its medicinal and pharmaceutical properties. It alleviates pain in arthritic patients and helps lower the risk of diabetes.

**Soil and Climatic Requirements.** Pepper grows in any type of soil; however, it performs best in sandy loam to clay loam soils rich in organic matter with sufficient moisture and good drainage. In addition, pepper is a sun-loving crop.

**Sowing of Seed.** Sow one seed per hole or potlet at a depth of 1.0 cm and cover with fine soil. Sprinkle the trays/ potlets with water after sowing.

Preferably, water the seedlings in the morning. The amount of water to be applied should be just enough to keep the soil moist. Over-watering favors damping-off and production of weak seedlings. Protect the seedlings from excessive sunlight and rain.

**Transplanting.** Transplant the seedlings 30-40 days after sowing (DAS). Prior to transplanting, water the seedlings to facilitate pulling. Transplant the seedlings together with the soil media. Transplant during cloudy days or late in the afternoon.



**Irrigation.** Water is important especially during the dry months, irrigate regularly to produce good quality fruits.

**Harvesting.** Harvesting of pepper starts at 60-75 DAT. Mature green stage of pepper is harvestable. Harvest when fruits have attained its full size possessing a waxy and shiny appearance.

Pick the fruit by breaking the pedicel with an upward twist or by cutting the peduncle with a sharp knife.

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