

# Grow Guide

## Peppers

Pepper seeds germinate best in warm conditions. At cool times of year tools such as greenhouses and heat mats are very useful for raising germination rates and expediting them along. We like to start peppers in trays and then move them up into small pots. We transplant them out of the small pots into the garden. Be sure to keep the young peppers moving along with fertilizer such as fish emulsion.

Peppers can be finicky while young and need good care to get established. Most peppers require vegetable garden conditions with good soil and regular water to have adequate performance. Sometimes there are exceptions to this rule with especially hardy types, such as some from the *C. frutescens* group which can grow well in more neglected parts of the garden. Weaker varieties perform best in Florida in the Spring and Fall, while more rugged types of peppers can grow well and produce throughout the entirety of the hot summer. Read variety descriptions for more specific growing parameters of a specific pepper and it's limitations and experiment on your own site. In general, *C. frutescens* and *C. chinense* varieties are most likely to do well throughout the rainy season. Most of the varieties we offer grow to be larger plants than typical bell peppers and should be spaced further apart.

