

Cultural Information for: Capsicum 'Treasures Red' Annual
Common Name: Ornamental Pepper
Botanical Name: Capsicum annuum
Seed Count: 6,000/ounce 210/gram
Optimum Germination Temperature: 82-86°F /28-30°C (day)
 68°F /20°C (night)
Optimum Growing Temperature: 65-70°F /18- 21°C
Optimum pH: 5.8 – 6.2
EC – Plug: 0.26 – 0.75 mmhos/cm (1:2) / 0.76 – 2.0 (SME)
EC – Finishing: 0.76 – 1.25 mmhos/cm (1:2) / 2.1 – 3.5 (SME)

Plug Culture – 5 weeks (288 / 12 x 24 tray)

Stage 1 (days 1-7) Sow seed into 288 trays using a sterile and well-drained media. Maintain a temperature of 82-86°F/28-30°C (day) and 68°F/20°C (night). Lightly cover the seed with medium vermiculite and keep the soil moist but not saturated. Capsicum also likes a high relative humidity

Stage 2 (days 8-14) The cotyledons are now visible, and roots are beginning to form. Reduce relative humidity and maintain an air temperature between 65-70°F/18-21°C. A light feeding at 50-75 ppm nitrogen from a well-balanced calcium nitrate-based formulation will strengthen the seedlings.

Stage 3 (days 15-29) The first true leaves are developed, and roots are beginning to penetrate the media. Allow the media to dry slightly between irrigations to promote healthy root development. Increase the fertilizer rate to 100-150 ppm nitrogen once or twice per week to maintain healthy growth. High fertilizer rates will have a negative impact on pepper seedlings, including stretchy growth and susceptibility to damping off.

Stage 4 (days 30-35) The plugs are now ready to transplant and should have 1-2 sets of true leaves.

Transplanting to shipping – 12 to 15 weeks

Containers: 4-inch/10 cm. to 1-gallon pots

Media: Select a sterile and well-drained media.

Pinching: A pinch 3 weeks after transplant will result in a larger plant. However, unpinched plants make an acceptable product and allow for higher density. For pinched plants, please add an additional 2-3 weeks to the total crop time.

Spacing: Space 3 to 4 plants per square foot (34 to 44 plants per square meter).

Temperature: Optimum growing temperature is 75-86 °F/24-28°C during the day and 65°F/18°C at night.

Fertilizer: Apply 200 ppm N as needed from a well-balanced calcium nitrate-based formulation. The use of Cal/Mag formulations, such as 15-5-15, work well to supply adequate amounts of magnesium. Excess fertilizer rates both reduce and delay flowering and fruit set.

Moisture: Maintain the plants evenly moist but not saturated. To prevent checking growth and early fruit shriveling never allow the plants to dry out. Capsicum likes high relative humidity which is also important for winter production.

Growth regulators: Not needed but B-Nine® (daminozide) is effective at 0.25% / 2,500 ppm.

Lighting: Ornamental peppers tolerate high light levels, which enhance the pigmentation of the fruit. Cool nights and warm days combined with plenty of direct sunlight produces the best crop.

Pests and Diseases: Aphids and leaf spot

Crop Scheduling: In general, 17-20 weeks from sowing

Pots/Gallons	Sowing	Transplanting	Shipping
Spring	mid Jan.	late February	mid June
Mid Summer	late March	early May	early August
Late summer	late April	early June	early Sept.
November	mid June	late July	early Nov.

“All information given is intended for general guidance only and may have to be adjusted to meet individual needs. Cultural details are based on North American conditions and Sakata cannot be held responsible for any crop damage related to the information given herein. Application of recommended growth regulators and chemicals are subject to local and state regulations. Always follow manufacturer's label instructions. Testing a few plants prior to treating the entire crop is best.”