



BASIC CARE

SUN

At least 6-8 hours a day

WATER

- Pour water directly into the soil at the base of the plant, not on the leaves or fruits
- Keep soil consistently moist but not overly wet
- In Summer: plants will need almost daily watering

STAKING/CAGING

As your pepper plant grows, loosely secure it to a stake or stick to help the plant grow vertically and support the weight of its fruit. This can also be done with a tomato cage.

HARVESTING

- Peppers are ready to harvest when they reach full size (about 3-4 inches), have a firm skin and are bright yellow in color
- Banana Peppers will continue to turn red as they ripen, and can still be eaten
- To keep from pulling entire bunches off your plant, use scissors or a kitchen knife to cut peppers off the plant as you need them
- If you continue to care for your plant, you should be able to harvest peppers for most of the summer and into early Fall

STORING

- Rinse in cool water, allow to dry thoroughly and store in the fridge
- Peppers that are still a bit green (instead of full yellow) can be left on a counter/table to continue ripening
- Avoid moisture when storing, it will make peppers rot more quickly

COMMON PROBLEMS

LEAVES CURLING/WILTING & DISCOLORING

- This may be caused by high heat or conditions, if the plant is on asphalt/concrete, try moving it somewhere that carries less heat.
- Water evenly and regularly, pouring water around the base of the plant when the top inch of soil is dry (might need to be done every day in the summer).

INSECT PESTS

Peppers generally don't have a lot of insect pests, most can be treated with insecticidal soap or by removing the insects by hand if they are larger.

MY PEPPER MADE ME CRY

- Hot peppers generally have capsaicin, a compound that helps keep pests away but also can make your eyes water and your throat burn.
- To avoid unnecessary tears, consider wearing gloves when harvesting peppers, don't touch your face and wash hands immediately after handling or slicing peppers.

WINTER IS COMING

Peppers do not handle frost well. In the fall, if weather reports predict below-freezing temperatures, you should bring your plant indoors for the night or remove all the peppers before the freeze.