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GARDEN VEGETABLES

PEPPERS

Second only to tomatoes in popularity, and similar in their cultivation, peppers are expansive in their varieties, color, and taste. Peppers are easy to grow and unless totally abused, will reward the gardener with plenty of fruit. Peppers are ideal for spot planting and container gardening, because their interesting texture and bright colored fruits are attractive additions.

To grow peppers, plant in a sunny spot with rich, well-drained soil. You can start pepper plants from seed or plant transplants from Oakland. You will find a nice variety of transplants in the garden center and a truly dizzying variety in the seed racks and catalogs. Either way, plant out seedlings when they are 4-6" tall after May 15th or when soil temperature is over 60 degrees. When buying transplants look for plants tightly rooted in the cells or pot, with dark green leaves and no blossoms or fruit showing. Space transplants 1 1/2' apart in rows 2' apart. Plant 3-5 plants per person. Do not mix your sweet pepper plants with hot or spicy varieties, as these may cross-pollinate and produce fruit with an off taste. Sweet peppers (also called green or bell peppers) will often turn red if left on the plant. Do not be alarmed, they aren't getting hot, actually they're getting sweeter.

Below are some common varieties of both sweet and hot pepper varieties.

SWEET PEPPERS

Big Bertha
Cajun Belle (sweet & hot)
California Wonder
Golden Bell
Orange Bell
Pimento
Purple Beauty
Red Bell

HOT/ COOKING PEPPERS

Cajun Belle
Cayenne Super
Cubannelle
Garden Salsa
Habenero
Holy Mole
Hot Banana
Jalepeno
Poblano
Serrano
Sweet Banana
Tabasco