

Chilli Seedling Plugs - Instructions

Unpacking and Care on Arrival

Seedlings are arranged in marked slots - A to F (embossed on the pack). When potting-on, refer to the label on the lid to identify and label each plant. See 'Unpacking Seedlings' video at www.sdcd.co.uk

IMPORTANT: seedlings should be opened as soon as possible.

Place pack on a flat surface with the flat lid-side up, and open from popper edge by removing staple and pulling the plastic layers apart.

Remove each seedling, holding by the soil plug, and stand up in the wide section of the base. If unable to pot-on when seedlings arrive, they can be left standing in the flat base of the pack and watered in-situ until you are ready.

Potting-on

You will need compost, pots, labels and a pencil/marker pen. Use any free-draining compost; we recommend soil-based, e.g. John Innes No.2, which can be easily re-wetted. A 13cm (1ltr) pot is ideal. Fill a pot with 3cm of compost, sit a seedling on top (holding by the soil plug), and fill in with compost around it. Aim to cover the plug by 1cm. Firm-down compost and water with room-temperature water.

Aftercare

Chillies enjoy a soil temperature of 20°-25°C in the day, and 10°-20°C at night. In spring, a warming mat helps. Avoid over-watering and do not allow to sit in excess water. Additional growing equipment and plant food can be found in our online shop at www.sdcd.co.uk

For more growing tips, email: growing@southdevonchillifarm.co.uk
www.southdevonchillifarm.co.uk Tel: 01548 550782



Chilli Growing Advice

Germinating Chilli Seeds

The best time to sow is Feb - May; earlier is better for superhots. Soil should be 20°-35°C. Plant in moist compost 2-5mm deep. Seedlings should appear after 7-14 days (some varieties may take longer). Once most are germinated, move to a sunny spot, e.g. heated greenhouse. Compost should not dry out or be too wet. Use room temperature water.

Pricking-out

Once seedlings produce true leaves, they can be transplanted into individual pots. Take care with the seedlings; hold by a leaf and use a blunt dibber to separate them. Keep compost at 18°-20°C for rapid growth.

Potting On

For plants that will live in pots, a 13cm (1ltr) pot works as a final size for small varieties; for larger varieties, 5-10ltrs is better. Pots can be left outside once risk of frost is passed; they are better in a greenhouse/indoors overnight. Plants kept outside should be hardened-off.

Fruit Setting, Feeding, Watering & Pests

Keep plants at 18°-36°C (25°C is ideal) for fruit-setting. Extreme temperatures may cause blossom-drop. Feed your plants to aid fruit development. If feeding with Chilli Focus (available on our website), see instructions on the bottle. Water plants when dry but avoid over-watering. For advice on pests such as aphids, see www.sdcf.co.uk

Harvesting

Pick at any stage; fruits are milder when immature. Picking fruits as soon as they are ready encourages more fruit to set. For heavy croppers, using high-potassium feed (Chilli Focus) encourages a succession of fruits.

Overwintering

Most chillies work as perennial house plants, but need pruning. See our video on overwintering chillies at www.sdcf.co.uk. Smaller varieties are best for overwintering.

