



SPICY PEPPERS

INSTRUCTION BOOKLET

YOUR KIT CONTAINS:



4x Nutrient Rich
Soil Discs



4x Seed Packets



Instruction Booklet



4x Burlap Pots with
Waterproof Lining



4x Plant Markers



Trimming Shears

NEED HELP?

We are here to help you with your growing needs. You can register your kit at shopgardenrepublic.com/register to get access to:



Grower Help Bot—Our Facebook messenger bot is programmed to answer frequently asked questions and troubleshoot issues. Visit shopgardenrepublic.com/grower-help to get started.



Our Private Facebook Community—Here you can get tips from other Garden Republic Growers and share your experience. Go to facebook.com/gardenrepublicshop & click “Groups” to join.



Expert Gardeners & Horticulturists—If you don't find the answers you need from our help bot, you'll be able to access our team of experts to help with your growing success.



Still Need Help? Email us at wecare@shopgardenrepublic.com

WELCOME TO YOUR NEW PEPPER GARDEN!

We'd like to first thank you for choosing our little company to do business with. It is our profound honor that you have chosen Garden Republic to join you on your growing journey.

Growing your own Pepper Garden is a timeless tradition. Whether you live in the "burbs" or the country, our complete kit will take you from seed to spicy peppers in no time, with fresh ingredients for your culinary creations.

The Art of Growing

Keep in mind, growing plants from seed is an art and can take practice and patience. We've provided detailed instructions in this manual to help you on your growing journey and increase your rate of success.

Premium Seeds & Soil

We only use the freshest seeds harvested from U.S growers. These seeds have all been tested to have a 90%+ germination rate before they are placed inside your kit. Our seeds have a 2 year shelf life.

Our soil discs are harvested from natural Canadian bogs and are packed full of nutrients and moisture retaining properties.

Detailed Instructions & Support

The next few pages will guide you through the process. Don't forget to register your kit at shopgardenrepublic.com/register or scan the QR code below in case you need help along the way.

Happy Gardening!

The Garden Republic Team



DISCLAIMER: Results may vary depending on geographic location, growing environment, seasons, and experience level. Germination rates may be longer or shorter depending on these conditions. If your seeds don't sprout, don't give up and don't throw them out! Use our helpful resources and experts to troubleshoot and get you growing. We truly care about your growing success.



START HERE

1

STEP 1: PRESOAK SEEDS

A day before sowing, take 3-5 seeds from each packet and soak in warm filtered water (about 120° F) for 16-24 hours. Save the remaining unsoaked seeds for later in case you need them again. The seeds will absorb the water and swell. This process will improve the chance for germination. The water does not need to be kept warm the entire time the seeds soak.

IMPORTANT: Soak 3-5 seeds of each type & save the rest in case you want to plant them in the future. Save the seeds in a zip lock bag in the refrigerator.



2

STEP 2: EXPAND SOIL DISCS

The soil discs included in your kit expand to several times their original size when soaked in water. This will be the starter soil for your pots.

Place the soil discs in a large bowl. Pour 2 cups of warm filtered water (approximately 120° F) directly over the soil discs. Add more water as necessary, but do not over saturate the soil. Mix the water slowly into the soil so there are no dry, hard spots remaining.



3

STEP 3: DRAIN THE SOIL

Overly saturated soil **may cause mold**, so drain the soil well by firmly squeezing it to remove any excess water until the soil is just slightly moist.



4

STEP 4: POTTING THE SOIL

Gently crumble the soil and place it inside the burlap pot until it is almost full. Put aside a small amount of soil for covering the seeds.



5

STEP 5: SOW YOUR SEEDS

Carefully take out the 3-5 presoaked seeds of each type (see opposite page for instructions) and set them on top of the soil approximately 1 inch apart.

PLEASE NOTE: Excessive amounts of seeds may prevent germination. Keep the leftover seeds in a plastic bag and store in your refrigerator.



6

STEP 6: COVER THE SEEDS

Slightly cover the seeds with less than 1/8 inch of soil that you set aside. It should only be just enough to make the seeds not visible. Gently even out the soil to make it flat and firm, but do not compact it. Place pots in an area where the soil can stay warm and receive some sunlight.

IMPORTANT: Check your individual seed packets for ideal soil temperatures. You can use a food thermometer to check your soil temperatures.

NOTE: Habanero seeds require soil temps of 95° F. You may want to place them separately in a ziplock bag and set them on a heating mat or in a hot car to achieve the desired temperature.

TIP: If you don't have a warm area that allows you to reach the desired soil temperature, consider purchasing a heating mat for your plants.

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STEP 7: WATERING

The water from soaking your soil discs will provide enough water for several days. After that poke your finger into the soil about 1/2 inch. Only water when the soil no longer feels moist to touch.

TIP: Use a spray bottle to avoid overwatering. Frequent misting is better than infrequent or heavy watering.

A NOTE ABOUT MOLD: Mold can prevent germination and is frequently seen in indoor gardening. Simply remove the mold by hand without disturbing the seeds if possible and sprinkle a little cinnamon powder over the top of the soil. Cinnamon is a natural fungicide and it works great!

If you get mold on your bamboo plant markers or on your wood planter box, peroxide is a great way to kill it and prevent it. Simply put some hydrogen peroxide on a cloth and wipe down the wood surfaces where you see the mold.

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STEP 8: AFTER SEEDS SPROUT

Once the seeds germinate and reach a few inches in height, place indirect sunlight for 6-8 hours a day. This also may be a good time to add plant nutrients. See next step for details.

TIP: *If you live in a hot climate, be careful not to “fry” your new sprouts with too much direct sun. If you have difficulty giving your sprouts the right amount of light, you may want to purchase a grow light.*





DON'T GIVE UP! Due to varying geographic locations and conditions, germination can take less time or longer than average. If your seeds take longer than normal, don't give up! Check soil temperature, moisture and the amount of sunlight, then adjust the environment to achieve successful germination. Unless mold or rotting kills your seeds (from overwatering), your seeds are still alive. Don't throw them out! They're just waiting for you to provide the right growing conditions.

DON'T FORGET THESE 4 IMPORTANT TIPS:

- 1. DO NOT PLANT TOO MANY SEEDS!** Seeds should have approx. 1" of space between them, so you should plant between 3-5 seeds per pot depending on seed size. Save leftover unsoaked seeds in the refrigerator in case your first round of seeds do not sprout.
- 2. KEEP THE SOIL MOIST BUT DO NOT OVER WATER.** Only water when the soil no longer feels moist to the touch after poking your finger in the soil 1/2 inch. Shower your seeds with water, but don't drown them. Use a spray bottle for gentle watering.
- 3. GET THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF SUNLIGHT AND KEEP THE SOIL WARM—VERY IMPORTANT!**
Recommended soil temperatures for germination are listed on the printed seed packets. Substitute with grow lights and warming mats if you don't have an area with ample sunlight & is also warm enough to keep the soil at the desired temperature.
- 3. PREVENT MOLD.** If you over water and don't give your plant enough sunlight, you may get mold. If this happens try sprinkling some cinnamon over the mold and give the plants more sunlight. Make sure the soil remains slightly moist (not wet) when poking it with your finger about 1/2 inch.

9

STEP 9: ADD PLANT NUTRIENTS

Once your plants have begun to show their first true leaves, it's a good idea to add some plant nutrients to any potted plants. Most nutrients get used up during sprouting. You can find all-purpose garden fertilizers online & in garden stores. Dilute the nutrients to 1/4 strength and add to your plant. Increase the concentration over time as your plant grows. Follow instructions on the nutrient package you purchase. (Your kit does not include plant nutrients.)



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STEP 10: THINNING THE SEEDLINGS

By the time your seedlings reach 3-4 inches in height, they will start fighting for space, water, sunlight and nutrients. The seedlings will need more space in order to grow. You can help by "thinning" the smaller sprouts to let the stronger ones grow better.



Take the shears that were included in your kit and cut the weaker sprout stems at the soil level. The remaining sprouts should be spaced about an inch apart for proper growth.

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STEP 11: RE-POTTING

After thinning, and when the sprouts are strong enough, you may leave your plants in their original pots or you can transplant them into a larger pot. (If you keep them in the original pot, be sure to add nutrients to the soil.) We recommend moving them to a 1 gallon sized pot with fresh, organic potting soil. If you haven't purchased a plant nutrient/fertilizer, you may want to use a soil that has fertilizer in it.





TROUBLESHOOTING


NEED A LITTLE EXTRA HELP TO GET YOUR SEEDLINGS GOING?


Whether it's over-watering, not getting proper sunlight or the soil isn't warm enough, sometimes our seeds don't get what they need to germinate. Don't worry! We have plenty of resources to help get you growing!


The following pages contain some tips and best practices that we are certain will help you be successful. If not, don't hesitate to reach out to us at one of the places below!


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SAVE YOUR SEEDS!

If you are not ready to plant yet, take your seeds, seal them in a plastic bag and store them in the refrigerator. Once you are ready to plant, save remaining unsoaked seeds in a plastic bag and place them into a refrigerator. You can use these seeds in case your first attempt isn't successful.

MY SEEDS DIDN'T SPROUT. WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

We can help support you through the process of seed germination and growing. Troubleshoot the issue with our Grower Help Bot by going to www.shopgardenrepublic.com/grower-help. If you haven't registered your kit, you'll need to do that before using the bot. If you don't find the answers you need, you can access our gardening experts here as well.

I HAVE LEFTOVER SEEDS, WHAT SHOULD I DO DIFFERENTLY THIS TIME?

Inside of your kit, you should have received enough seeds for two rounds of planting. If your seeds did not sprout, take the additional seeds provided and try again. Be sure to go to www.shopgardenrepublic.com/grower-help before starting your next round. If you still have questions, you can ask our experts and also join the Facebook Grower Community for more help.



CHECK MOISTURE WITH A TOOTHPICK

To check soil moisture, you can stick a toothpick into the soil. When you pull it out, if soil sticks to it, you don't need to water. If it doesn't stick, it's time to water.

DON'T OVER WATER!

Many gardening enthusiasts make the mistake of watering their plants until the soil is thoroughly soaked. This can cause root rot, mold growth, and can cool the soil too much, preventing germination. Look at the top portion of your soil, does it appear to be dry and flaky? If you stick your finger into the soil 1/2 inch, is there any moisture? If there isn't, go ahead and water just enough for the topsoil to dampen.

PREVENT MOLD

Seeing mold on your soil? This means your soil is too wet and your pots are sitting in an area that isn't receiving enough light and airflow. Water only when the soil is no longer moist to the touch. Place the pots in more light. Sprinkle cinnamon over the soil to kill the mold and consider getting a grow light to give it more light. If mold has overtaken the soil, you may need to get new soil and start again. Clean mold off of bamboo plant markers and planter box with hydrogen peroxide.

KEEP THE SOIL WARM

Keep the soil at a warm temperature. Allowing some sunlight will help warm up the soil for ideal germination. You don't want direct sunlight for long periods until after your plant is more mature as this will dry out the soil and burn the emerging sprout. Increase direct sunlight as it grows until you reach 6-8 hours of sunlight at 2-3 inches high or after you see the first "true leaves". Avoid cold window sills during the winter. Purchase a warming mat if needed.



DON'T PLANT YOUR SEEDS TOO DEEP

It's important to leave just the right amount of soil on the surface of your seeds. The general rule of thumb for seeds is a depth of 1/16 to 1/8 inch. Please refer to your individual seed recommendations for exact depths. Too much soil on top of the seeds makes it more difficult for oxygen to reach the seeds and for them to break through the top layer. Just sprinkle enough soil so that the seeds aren't visible.

GET THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF SUNLIGHT

Without the proper sunlight, your seeds will not grow. You will want to keep your seeds in a place that is naturally warm and well-lit. In the early days of your seedlings, you don't need much direct light— but they will still need some sunlight & warmth. The best spot for growing indoors is near a window. However, during the winter, the windowsill maybe too cold for the seeds to sprout. So a shelf near the window will work well, you can also use grow lights and heating mats.

AVOID SCHEDULED WATERING

Seeds only soak up as much water as they need, and this could vary depending on the level of sunlight they're receiving. Watering every day could drown your plant, and not watering enough will surely cause its roots to starve and shrivel up. So always check the soil first, to make sure it's not too wet before you add more water. Misting frequently with a spray bottle is better than infrequent heavy watering. You can use your finger to check soil moisture or use the toothpick method mentioned earlier.

SHOWER DON'T HOSE

Since seedlings are small, you don't want to take a regular garden hose and soak them. Use a watering canteen, spray bottle or something that provides a light "shower" of water droplets so that your entire root system receives adequate moisture without overdoing it. If too much water is pouring through the bottom of your pot, it may be time to repot.

HELP! MY SEEDLINGS ARE WILTING & DYING AFTER THEY REACH 3-4"

You may need nutrients if you're already watering correctly and getting plenty of light. Your peat soil discs have enough nutrients to get you started but this quickly gets used up after the sprouts have reached a few inches. We recommend purchasing some all purpose plant nutrients and add according to directions or dilute the nutrients to 1/4 strength until the sprouts get bigger. Also be sure you remember to thin out weaker sprouts so you only have a couple of strong sprouts per pot so they don't fight over resources.

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REGISTER YOUR KIT FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Go to www.shopgardenrepublic.com/register
or scan the QR code below to register.



Your registration number is:

GR8MM



tag your garden
#GARDENREPUBLIC

Disclaimer of Liability: This kit was designed as a gift and should be treated as such. Garden Republic LLC does not assume responsibility and disclaims liability for non-germinated seeds arising from improper use of this product, or as a result of factors that are beyond the company's control.

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WARNING: Choking hazard: Keep out of reach of children.
Use with adult supervision.

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