

# Starting Peppers from Seed

**Peppers are slow to start, so give them time and warmth**



### 1. START EARLY:

Sow seeds indoors 8 to 10 weeks before your last frost.



### 2. KEEP THEM WARM:

Peppers sprout best at 80 to 85°F. A seedling heat mat makes a real difference.



### 3. SOW SHALLOW:

About 1/4 inch deep in a good seed starting mix.



### 4. KEEP THEM MOIST:

Evenly moist, but not soaked.



### 5. GIVE THEM BRIGHT LIGHT:

Move seedlings under strong light as soon as they come up.



### 6. POT THEM UP:

Move them into larger pots when they have 2 or 3 sets of leaves.



### HARDEN OFF BEFORE PLANTING

Over 7 to 10 days, start with an hour or two outdoors in a sheltered spot, and add a little more time and sun each day. Peppers sunburn easily.

**TIP:** Without warmth, pepper seeds can take 2 to 3 weeks to come up, or not come up at all.