

- Now for something completely different
- In the next five minutes you will learn everything you need to grow your own peppers.
- My name is Roland Huss, I'm from Red Hat and grow chili peppers since six years.

- That's how a typical chili season in Europe looks like:
  - Start to seed indoors in February or March
  - After 3 to 4 weeks, repot
  - The outdoor season then starts in mid May and ends before the first frost in October or November.

- First you need seeds.
- The easiest way to get seeds is to order them online.
- My favourite seeds store is [semillas.de](https://semillas.de) with seeds for over 800 different kinds of chili peppers
- The seeds are quite inexpensive and have incredible germination rates.

- Before seeding the seeds should be soaked in chamomile tea at around 20 to 25 degrees celsius to help the seeds to germinate
- An alternative is to soak in nitric acid which is also available from the mentioned online shop

- After the seeds has been soaked for one day they are put into usual potting soil in a mini green house.
- 3-4 of the same seeds are put together in one cell and don't forget to mark the cells.

- The next two to three weeks the mini green house has to be kept in a warm and bright place.
- Normal daylight should be enough, of course an electrical lightning can be used, too for more ambitious results.

- Now repot into larged pots with a diameter of 10 cms.
- For the next 4 to 6 weeks put them into a warm and bright place, the brighter the better.
- The plants need to get accustomed to the sun so on sunny days put them out for one or two hours

- After the ice saints or blackberry winter, so when the last frost is over, the outdoor season starts.
- Plants can be bet out either in open land or in large pots with 10 to 12 liters volume.
- A cheap and easy option are standard twelve litres buckets.



- A good alternative for standard soil is an homemade soil mixture which is much cheaper
- Ingredients are turf, sand, humus, compost, garden lime, organic long-term fertilizer and horn shavings.
- 8 cent per liter instead of maybe 20 cent per liter

- During the summer its important to water, of course, but not to much. The plants will tell you when they need water.
- The more sun, the better but be attentive for sun burn especially in the beginning
- However a bit of a sun burn doesn't harm at the end.

- Whether to fertilize or not is a religious question. It is not required but delivers better results.
- The proper fertilization is a science on its own and get expensive quite fast.
- As an insider tip: Hakaphos soft special is an excellent, non-expensive NPK fertilizer (10 EU per season).

- Most largest risks are green flies and mycosis
- Green flies are best stopped by using natural means like the oil from the Neem tree or using lady bugs
- If detected early piking green flies with a tweezer helps, too

- Mycosis happen when weather is too wet. The only reasonable things is to pluck off affected leaves and put the plants into isolation.

- Plants should stay out as long as possible, it's always a race between ripening and the first frost.
- Harvest must happen before the first frost, otherwise fruits become slushy and unusable.

- Chili pepper ripen from green to red or yellow, but even matured green chili pepper can be consumed.
- E.g. Jalapenos are typically used when green.
- Chilis ripen also after being harvested when put into a warm place.

- What to do with the chilli peppers now ?
- They can be pickled like cucumbers in vinegar with condiments
- Put different kind of chili peppers into the jars and you don't have to worry about christmas presents for your family.



- Chilis can be dried to make powder.
- Small chili pepper can be air dried.
- For bigger chili fruits special drying devices are recommended, but a normal oven will do it, too.

- Dried chilis the can be grinded in a mixer.
- But be aware of the dust, its quite hazardous and can cause serious pain
- Also always wear gloves when working with chili pepper.

- Other usages are
  - putting the chili pepper into a fridge
  - making sauces
  - candy the chili peppers
  - putting them into oil

- To summarize, planting chili peppers is not a dark science and can be done in gloomy north or middle europe.
- There is a large community outside which is happy to help in any aspect of chili growing.
- Thanks for the attention and good luck for your first chilli pepper endeavour.