



## SWEET PEPPER

**Sweet Pepper** (*Capsicum annuum* L.) also known as capsicum, kampana, or lara is the most widely used condiment all over the world. It is consumed fresh, dried or processed. Sweet pepper is a warm and dry season crop. It germinates well at temperature of 20°C to 30°C and grows best at around 25°

### VARIETY

Code and Variety	Days from Transplant	Plant	Fruit Shape	Features
406 blue star	50	medium tall	elongated bell	continuous fruit set, uniform and smooth the fruit
411 big star	55	tall	elongated bell	large long bell, productive
412 beauty bell	50	dwarf	bell	medium thick wall, TMV tolerant
415 uranus	50	medium tall	elongated bell	productive TMV resistant
416 sunny star	50	medium tall	elongated bell	improved Ruby King type, TMV resistant
417 queen star	45	slightly dwarf	long bell	thin flesh, uniform size, high yielding, TMV tolerant
419 lucky star	50	medium tall	cylindrical	productive, suitable for fresh market
1287 neptune	50	medium tall	long bell 16.5x7.0	fruit, thick flesh, resistant to TMV and CMV
1288 vega	45	slightly dwarf, spreading	square	thick flesh, good shipper, resistant to TMV and CMV

### CLIMATIC AND SOIL REQUIREMENTS

Sweet pepper requires cool weather for best fruit quality, in low elevations, however, planting is the best from October to December. In mid and high elevations, it can be

grown throughout the year.

Sweet pepper grows well in any type of soil with pH of 5.5 to 6.5. Production is best, however, in deep loam soil with good fertility, easy irrigation, adequate drainage and plenty of sunshine.

Sweet pepper should not be grown on the same soil year after year because of disease problems. It is best to rotate the crop with rice, legume, sugarcane and corn.

## **SEEDLING PRODUCTION**

One hectare requires 100-200 g of seeds, it is best to produce seedlings in nurseries and transplant 3-4 weeks later. Prepare seedbeds by incorporating 2 - 4 kg of manure and 1-2 kg rice hull charcoal/m<sup>2</sup>. Prepare 1m wide beds at any convenient length. First, water the beds, then make lines across each bed at 7-10 cm apart. Sow the seeds thinly if no pricking will be done.

## **FERTILIZER**

To produce a good crop of sweet pepper, both manure and commercial fertilizer will be needed.

Cover lightly with manure and mulch with rice hull. In the case of hybrid seeds, prick to nursery trays soon after germination. Provide temporary shade and harden seedlings one week before transplanting.

## **LAND PREPARATION**

Prepare the area thoroughly. For small areas, make plots 0.75- 1m wide for two-row/plot planting. In bigger areas, make furrows 0.5 - 0.75 m apart for single row planting. Apply basal fertilizer at 5 -7 bags/ha 14-14-14 and 5-10 tons/ha manure. Transplant at a spacing of 0.3 - 0.5 m between hills. Irrigation must be started immediately after transplanting.

## **MULCHING**

Use mulch to control weeds and promote better growth. Rice hull, rice straw or plastic may be used. In case of the latter, make beds 1m wide and incorporate the required manure and fertilizer. Spread the mulch so that it will cover the sides with soil.

Plastic mulching is also important to prevent soil erosion during rainy season. It also keeps the soil moist during the dry season and prevents sudden rises in temperature in the soil when it is hot.

It is necessary to remove all the side shoots below the first branch of the main stem to promote fruit setting.

## **MAINTENANCE**

Irrigate weekly. Weed 2-3 times during the growing season. Weeds must be removed as early as possible by hand or using a sickle. If using a hoe, do not hoe the soil too deep as this will damage the roots. Hoeing should also not be done during the latter part of the growing season. It is best to intercrop with other vegetables, such as kutsai, and garlic as well as marigold to help minimize the incidence of insect pests.

Cultivation and weeding should be carried out before first and second side-dressing. Apply soil to cover the side-dressed fertilizer on the shoulders of the bed to facilitate the growth of roots and absorption of nutrients.

Side-dress with urea (46-0-0) every two weeks at 5 -10 g/hill depending on plant growth. At the onset of the fruiting, use a ratio of 1:1 mixture of 46-0-0 and 0-60

## **PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT**

<b>Insect Pests/Diseases</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Aphids	Intercropping; hot pepper spray, organophosphate
Spider mites	Intercropping; spray with miticide
Cutworm	Hot pepper spray; <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i>
Fruitfly	Sanitation; fruitfly attractant
Fruit and shoot borer	Sanitation; hot pepper spray; synthetic pyrethroids
Bacterial wilt	Sanitation; use of resistant variety; avoidance
Nematodes	Application of chicken manure; Intercropping with marigold
Anthracnose	Crop rotation; sanitation, spray with Benlate
Leaf spot diseases	Sanitation; spray with Mancozeb. Benlate
Virus diseases	Refrain from smoking in the vicinity; rouging

## **HARVESTING**

Start harvesting at 80-100 days from transplanting or 3 - 6 weeks after flowering. Harvest mature green fruits or before it reaches full maturity.

## **POST HARVEST**

Sort fruits according to market standard and separate damaged fruits. Fresh fruits can be stored up to five weeks at 4°C and 95% humidity.