



[**Learn To Grow and Cook Peppers Like a Pro! ►**](#)

How To Make Peppers Grow Faster

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So you're growing peppers and you need to speed up the process. Maybe you are behind on planting this year, or you just want to increase your pepper plant's yield this season. Peppers grow pretty fast when cared for properly, especially after they are a month or so old.

However, there are a few techniques you can try to make your peppers grow more quickly. In this article, you will learn **how to make peppers grow faster**.



Use A Grow Light

Most regions of the world require you to start your peppers indoors. Unless you live close to the equator, the winter months are too cold with too little sunlight to grow peppers year round.

Thankfully, [starting plants indoors](#) is easy and gives the peppers enough time to mature outside. However, if you start your seeds inside, you should always use a grow light.

[Grow lights](#) are becoming more affordable and much less cumbersome. Older lights were large and loud, with cooling fans running non-stop. Now, a smaller, quiet LED grow light can help your plants grow fast and strong from seed.

Read our detailed article about the [best grow lights for peppers](#) here.

Be sure to position your grow light an appropriate distance above your peppers. We use a shelving unit to mount our grow light above our pepper seed trays. The distance

from the light to the plants varies from one light to another, so be sure to read the instructions.

Not only will your peppers grow faster, but they will be stronger and leafier. Without providing strong light from day one, your pepper plants will become tall and leggy. They will also likely have smaller harvests and may require staking.

Fertilize Regularly

Light is important, but nutrients are equally vital. Without proper nutrition, your pepper plants will grow slowly and may develop issues. These include yellowing leaves, improper root development, curling leaves and yes, stunted growth.

With so many options on the market, choosing a fertilizer can be overwhelming. However, we always recommend using fertilizer with a healthy amount of nitrogen during younger plant growth.

[Fox Farm makes an excellent trio of fertilizers that work great for pepper plants \(get some here\).](#)



Each of these three fertilizers is designed for the different stages of plant development. The first stage helps the plants grow plenty of healthy leaves. The second helps encourage lots of flowers, and the third accelerates fruit production.

If you prefer organic gardening, try [Miracle-Gro organics](#) (water-soluble) or [Jobe's Organic Veggie Fertilizer](#) (slow release).

If you want to learn more about [fertilizer for pepper plants](#), read our article here.

Transplant At The Right Time

Transplanting peppers is important to give the plants room to continue growing. If you wait too long, your plants may become [root bound](#).

If you start your seeds indoors in small seed cells (1 inch x 1 inch), then they will need to be transplanted into larger pots 3-4 weeks after sprouting. The root systems should *just* be reaching the bottom of your container when you transplant.

Transplanting at the right time ensures that the **root system is never constrained by the size of your pot**. We start our pepper plants in seed cell trays, move them to [3.5" pots](#), and then to their final containers (either into the ground or in large pots).

Learn more about [transplanting peppers here](#).

Consider Pruning Early On

Pruning pepper plants early in the season (about 1.5-2 month old plants) can encourage your plants to become bushier. We rarely use this method anymore, but if you have a longer growing season it can possibly be beneficial to overall yield.



While it may not be the right time for you, pruning, or topping off your peppers can help your plants grow sturdier. The plants will recover quickly from the process and will grow new shoots and often more flowers in the long run.

Don't just go hacking away your plants! Make sure the timing is right, and read our article about [pruning pepper plants here](#) first.

Use A Large Enough Container



When pepper plants are constrained to a small pot, the plant's size will be smaller as well. This is because the root system runs out of space to expand, and the plant foliage follows suit.

Most pepper varieties require a minimum of 3-5 gallons of soil to grow optimally. This varies from one type to another, but it is best to be on the safe side and go bigger.

As a rule of thumb, the larger the pepper variety, the larger the pot should be. For example, [bell peppers](#) should be planted in a larger pot than thai chilies.

Learn more about [choosing the right container size for your pepper plants here](#).

Plant In Full Sun

Once your pepper plants are ready for the outdoors, make sure you choose a location with the most sunlight possible. If your garden space is shaded, do your best to avoid unnecessary shade throughout the day. Peppers will grow faster during sunny days.

If you are growing any taller plants along with your peppers, make sure that the peppers are on the South side (if you are in the Northern hemisphere). If you are growing in containers, be sure you place the pots away from any tall structures (like your house, lawn furniture, bushes, etc.).

Try using a sun tracking app to determine the ideal location for your pepper plants.

[Sun Seeker](#) is one option we found in the App store.

Pick Peppers When They Ripen

In order to allow your plants to produce at their best, you should [harvest peppers](#) when they are ripe. This will allow the plant to continue driving energy to producing more peppers. The remaining peppers will grow faster if you are diligently picking ripe peppers.

This is optional, as some peppers will continue to ripen to new colors if left on the plant. For example, [jalapeno peppers](#) are usually picked when green, but will ripen further to black and finally a deep red. The peppers typically become sweeter and hotter the longer they remain on the plant, so consider this before harvesting.



I hope this article helped you learn how to make peppers grow faster! There is only so much you can do to speed up growth for your pepper plants, but these tips should help. Let us know how your peppers are looking after making these adjustments in the comments below.



Calvin

One of the original Pepper Geeks! When [Calvin](#) isn't gardening or learning more about peppers and botany, he might be traveling new places or playing some music.