Peruvian Purple Ornamental Pepper

Capsicum annuum 'Peruvian Purple'



Peruvian Purple Ornamental Pepper fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Ornamental Chili, Chili Pepper

Group/Class: Pequin Group

Description:

This highly ornamental, Pequin type variety, produces wide purple pods which grow in upright clusters on the plant, and eventually mature to red; this lovely plant has purple and green variegated leaves, purple flowers and stems; a great color accent

Ornamental Features

Peruvian Purple Ornamental Pepper is primarily grown for its highly ornamental fruit. The fruits are showy deep purple peppers which fade to red over time, which are carried in abundance from mid summer to early fall. Its attractive pointy leaves emerge green in spring, turning dark green in color with showy purple variegation throughout the season. It features subtle purple star-shaped flowers dangling from the stems from late spring to mid summer. The purple stems can be quite attractive.

This plant is primarily grown as an ornamental, but it's also valued for its edible qualities. The oblong spicy peppers are most often used in the following ways:

- Cooking
- Drying
- Pickling
- Seasoning
- Sauces

Landscape Attributes

Peruvian Purple Ornamental Pepper is an herbaceous annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Peruvian Purple Ornamental Pepper is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Herb Gardens
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

Planting & Growing

Peruvian Purple Ornamental Pepper will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. This vegetable plant is an annual, which means that it will grow for one season in your garden and then die after producing a crop.

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Peruvian Purple Ornamental Pepper is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.