Caribbean Red Pepper

Capsicum chinense 'Caribbean Red'

Height: 32 inches

Spread: 16 inches

Spacing: 24 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Chili Pepper, Habanero

Group/Class: Hot Habanero

Description:

Hotter than your average habanero, Caribbean red is the fiery go to for hot pepper lovers; great for containers or gardens, this variety produces small fruit, emerging green and maturing to red; hot yet fruity, it is wonderful in salsas and hot sauces

Edible Qualities

Caribbean Red Pepper is an annual vegetable plant that is typically grown for its edible qualities, although it does have ornamental merits as well. It produces small green peppers (which are technically 'berries') which are typically harvested when mature. The fruit will often fade to cherry red over time. The peppers have a fiery taste and a crisp texture.

The peppers are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Cooking
- Drying
- Seasoning
- Sauces



Caribbean Red Pepper fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Caribbean Red Pepper
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Caribbean Red Pepper will grow to be about 32 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 16 inches. When planted in rows, individual plants should be spaced approximately 24 inches apart. Because of its vigorous growth habit, it may require staking or supplemental support. 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 can be integrated into a landscape or flower garden by creative gardeners, but is usually grown in a designated vegetable garden. It should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America, and it is considered by many to be an heirloom variety.

Caribbean Red Pepper is a good choice for the vegetable garden, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. 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. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.