Hot Portugal Pepper

Capsicum annuum 'Hot Portugal'



Hot Portugal Pepper fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Group/Class: Hot Cayenne

Description:

A sturdy upright variety producing 6" long hot peppers; emerging green and developing to bright scarlet red; ideal for patio containers and gardens; this fiery pepper is great for hot sauces, pickling, drying or adding that extra kick in any dish

Edible Qualities

Hot Portugal Pepper is an annual vegetable plant that is typically grown for its edible qualities, although it does have ornamental merits as well. It produces olive green long peppers (which are technically 'berries') with red flesh which are typically harvested when mature. The fruit will often fade to scarlet over time. The peppers have a hot taste and a crunchy texture.

The peppers are most often used in the following ways:

- Eating When Cooked/Prepared
- Cooking
- Drying
- Seasoning
- Canning

Planting & Growing

Hot Portugal Pepper will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. When planted in rows, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart. 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 is quite ornamental as well as edible, and is as much at home in a landscape or flower garden as it is 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.

Hot Portugal 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. 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.