

# Black Pearl Ornamental Pepper

*The First Unique, Black-Leafed Pepper Features Very Hot Fruit*

- A new **Fantastic Foliage™** selection!
- The foliage of **Black Pearl** is greenish when young and becomes glossy black with maturity when aided by high light and heat.
- Very shiny black fruit that is very hot to the taste matures to dark red with a rounded, slightly pointed shape.
- These bushy plants have an upright, well-branched habit.
- **Black Pearl's** excellent vigor and foliage color make it a good choice for use in mixed containers. **Black Pearl** is also useful as a background plant in the garden.
- This plant withstands high heat and humidity.
- Contact your local distributor or call PanAmerican Seed at 800 231-4868 for ordering information.

*Capsicum annuum*

**Approximate seed count:** 6,850 S./oz. (240 S./g)

## Plug Production

### Plug Tray Size

Ornamental peppers are well-suited to 288 cell or larger plugs.

### Stage 1 (Radicle emergence/5 to 7 days)

- Maintain soil temperature at 72° to 76°F (22° to 24°C).
- Keep medium evenly moist but not saturated.
- Cover the seed lightly with coarse vermiculite.
- Light is not necessary for germination until radicle emergence.
- Maintain soil pH at 5.5 to 5.8 and soluble salts (EC) at less than 0.5 mmhos/cm (using 2:1 extraction).
- Keep ammonium levels less than 10 ppm.

### Stage 2 (Stem and cotyledon emergence/7 to 10 days)

- Maintain soil temperature at 70° to 75°F (21° to 24°C).
- Allow the medium to dry out slightly before watering for best germination and rooting.
- Provide light levels of 1,000 to 2,500 f.c. (10,000 to 25,000 Lux) for the remainder of plug production.
- Begin fertilizing with 50 to 75 ppm N from 14-0-14 or a calcium/potassium nitrate feed once cotyledons are fully expanded.
- Alternate feed with clear water.

### Stage 3 (Growth and development of true leaves/10 to 14 days)

- Maintain soil temperature at 70° to 75°F (21° to 24°C).
- Avoid wilt.
- Increase feed to 100 to 150 ppm N from 14-0-14 or other calcium/potassium nitrate fertilizer. Fertilize every 2 to 3 irrigations.
- Chemical growth regulators cannot be used on peppers.

### Stage 4 (Plants ready for transplanting or shipping/7 days)

- Maintain soil temperature at 68° to 70°F (20° to 21°C).
- Provide medium soil moisture and avoid wilt.
- Maintain soil pH at 5.5 to 5.8 and soluble salts (EC) at less than 0.75 mmhos/cm.
- Continue to fertilize with 100 to 150 ppm N from 14-0-14 or calcium/potassium nitrate feed as needed.

## Growing On to Finish

### Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a medium initial nutrient charge and a pH of 5.5 to 6.3.

### Temperature

- **Nights:** 65° to 70°F (18° to 21°C)
- **Days:** 68° to 80°F (20° to 26°C)
- Peppers will be damaged by temperatures below 45°F (7°C). Prefers temperatures as warm as possible. Foliage will be darkest under higher light levels and high temperatures. Under lower light levels, growing tips will be green and older foliage will have dark edges with more green toward the mid-rib.

### Light

Provide light levels of 4,000 to 5,000 f.c. (40,000 to 50,000 Lux) while maintaining moderate temperatures.

### Fertilization

- Fertilize at every other irrigation with 20-10-20 at 150 to 200 ppm N.
- Maintain medium electrical conductivity around 1.0 mmhos/cm (using 1:2 extraction).

## Controlling Height

- High light levels and spacing will keep plants from stretching.
- Growth regulators are not labeled for use on peppers.

## Crop Schedule (Spring Production)

**Plug stage:** 4 to 5 weeks

**Transplant to 4.5 in. (11 cm) (foliage begins to darken, but no fruit):** 9 to 10 weeks

**Transplant to mature fruit:** 16 to 20 weeks

**Note:** Crop time for mature fruit will be 4 to 5 weeks shorter during Summer production.

## In The Garden

**Location:** Full Sun

**Garden Height:** 14 to 18 in. (35 to 45cm) may grow 2 to 3 ft. (60 to 90cm) or taller in warmer areas with longer growing seasons.

**Garden Spread:** 12 to 16 in. (30 to 40cm)

**Garden Spacing:** 8 to 10 in. (20 to 25cm)

# PanAmerican Seed™

[PanAmSeed.com](http://PanAmSeed.com)

PanAmerican Seed Co.  
622 Town Road  
West Chicago, Illinois USA 60185-2698  
630 231-1400  
Fax: 630 231-3609

PanAmerican Seed Europe BV  
Lavendelweg 10  
NL-1435 EW Rijsenhout, Holland  
+31 (0)297-383038  
Fax: +31 (0)297-383036

™ denotes a trademark of and ® denotes a registered trademark of Ball Horticultural Company in the U.S. It may also be registered in other countries.

©2004 Ball Horticultural Company Printed in USA PAS05053