

Cajun Belle Pepper

Capsicum annuum

Approximate seed count: 4400 S./oz. (155 S./g)

Plug Production

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless media with a pH of 5.8 to 6.2 and a medium initial nutrient charge (EC 0.75 mmhos/cm).

Sowing

Can be produced in 288 or larger plug tray. In Europe, 264-cell trays can be used. Cover the seed lightly with coarse vermiculite.

Stage 1 – Germination takes 5 to 7 days.

Soil temperature: 72-76°F (22-24°C).

Light: Optional.

Moisture: Keep soil wet (level 4) during Stage 1.

Humidity: Maintain 95%+ relative humidity (RH) until radicles emerge.

Note: Pepper is very sensitive to high salts, particularly high ammonium, during germination. Keep ammonium levels to less than 10 ppm

Stage 2

Soil temperature: 70-75°F (21-24°C).

Light: Up to 2,500 f.c. (26,900 Lux)

Moisture: Reduce soil moisture slightly (level 3 to 4) to allow the soil to dry out slightly before watering for best germination and rooting.

Fertilizer: Apply fertilizer at rate 1 (less than 100 ppm N/less than 0.7 mS/cm EC) from nitrate-form fertilizers with low phosphorous.

Stage 3

Soil temperature: 65-70°F (18-21°C).

Light: Up to 2,500 f.c. (26,900 Lux)

Moisture: Allow media to dry further until the surface becomes light brown (level 2) before watering to promote root growth and control shoot growth. Keep the moisture level to wet-dry cycle (moisture level 4 to 2). Avoid permanent wilting.

Fertilizer: Increase fertilizer to rate 2 (100 to 175 ppm N/0.7 to 1.2 mS/cm EC) from 14-0-14 or other calcium/potassium nitrate fertilizer. Fertilize every 2 to 3 irrigations. Maintain medium pH of 5.8 to 6.2 and EC between 1.0 and 1.5 mS/cm (1:2 extraction).

Growth Regulators: Generally not needed

Stage 4

Soil temperature: 62-66°F (17-19°C)

Light: Up to 5,000 f.c. (53,800 Lux)

Moisture: Same as Stage 3.

Fertilizer: Fertilize with 14-0-14, 15-5-15 or calcium/potassium nitrate feed at rate 2 (100 to 175 ppm N/0.7 to 1.2 mS/cm EC) as needed.

Growing On to Finish

Container Size

4-in. (10-cm) square/quart pots: 1 plug per pot

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless media with a pH of 5.5 to 6.2 and a medium initial nutrient charge (EC 0.75 mmhos/cm).

Temperature

Nights: 65 to 70°F (18 to 21°C)

Days: 68 to 80°F (20 to 26°C)

Pepper prefers warm temperature. It will be damaged by temperatures below 45°F (7°C).

Light

Maintain light levels as high as possible.

Irrigation

Grow plants on the dry side. To provide some height control, they can be allowed to slightly wilt prior to irrigation once plants are rooted to the sides of the containers.

Fertilizer

Apply fertilizer at rate 3 (175 to 225 ppm N/1.2 to 1.5 mS/cm) every third irrigation with predominately nitrate-form fertilizer with low phosphorus and high potassium. Maintain media pH at 5.8 to 6.2.

For constant fertilizer program, can apply fertilizer at rate 2 (100 to 175 ppm N or 0.7 to 1.2 mS/cm).

Height Control

High light levels and spacing will keep plants from stretching.

Pinching

Pinching is not needed.

Spacing

Space plants when foliage is touching.

Crop Scheduling

Sow to transplant (288 cell plug): 5 to 6 weeks

Transplant to sale: 4 to 7 weeks (from Ball Bell pepper schedule)

Total crop time to green fruit: about 16 weeks

Common Problems

Insect: Watch for Aphid

Disease: no severe disease

Garden and Landscape Information

- Plant in full sun after all danger of frost has passed.
- Space plants at 14-18 in. (36 to 46 cm) apart in well-drained soil.
- After plants are established, Cajun Belle is quite drought tolerant.
- Garden height at 14-16 in. (36-40 cm) tall.

Note: Growers should use the information presented here as a starting point. Crop times will vary depending on the climate, location, time of year, and greenhouse environmental conditions. Chemical and PGR recommendations are only guidelines. It is the responsibility of the applicator to read and follow all the current label directions for the specific chemical being used in accordance with all regulations.

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