



How to seeding up chilli seeds.

More information about growing your own chillies:

<http://thechillfactory.com/growing>

How to grow seedlings video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7RfRhEhKr34&feature=youtu.be>

Make sure you use the best quality seeds!! Before you start seeding up....BUY our seeds online here:

<http://thechillfactory.com/chilli-chili-chile-shop-posseedheat>

Some customers cannot get it right or are not able to get the germination going.... It is tricky but we do it every time and people that use high quality seeds and follow the instructions **EXACTLY** as we do it ourselves get a germination / strike rate of 85 - 90 %

- The SOIL temperature of the chilli seeds MUST be between **28 - 32 degrees Celsius CONSTANTLY** and **EXACTLY**....

So day and night for the whole seeding up time of 4 weeks

- It can take **UP TO 2 weeks minimum to 4 WEEKS maximum** before first seedlings will pop up!! So you do need PATIENCE as well...

- You NEED to use a heat blanket to control the temperature EXACTLY and constantly over that time period...!!!

- Make sure to measure the heat of the SOIL by putting the thermometer inside the SOIL of the seedlings

- Make sure they do NOT dry out

- Make sure they are NOT TOO WET either, because this will make the seeds vulnerable to fungal pathogens

- We only take the best pods and take extreme care in de-seeding and handling our chilli seeds. We keep our chilli seeds on constant temperature controlled storage so they stay 110% quality seeds for the next FIVE years

- When you buy our seeds store them in your fridge until seeding them up.

- Make sure while storing them in your fridge until needed that you do not get any moisture in the bags

- Make sure they stay below 5 degrees Celsius when storing for long term and they will last 5 years!!

- The best way to make sure moist stays out of the plastic bags while storing the seeds is to keep the plastic bag inside a "Kilner" ("Scotch") jars with a rubber joint and propped up lid... or store them in a sealed Ziploc bag with some silica gel beads to keep moist out.



MOST importantly:

- Treat them like they are your babies and give them as much TLC as you can.

Do not forget they are sub-tropical to Tropical plants!! And the ultra hots are very temperamental as well.... so need a lot of TLC.

Before you start seeding them up:

Mark Peacock B.Hort Sc (Hons 1st Class) Seed treatment Protocol:

- 1. Soak seeds in a 0.05% Sodium Hypochlorite solution for 30 minutes. The best product for this is Milton (in a blue bottle in the supermarket with the baby stuff. It is used for sterilising baby bottles etc... you can use the Milton undiluted so use as is...)*
- 2. Dry seeds on paper towel and sow immediately at a depth of less than 1cm.*
- 3. Mix up a pre-emergent fungicide at label rate and apply to growing media. (Fongarid-it is systemic and will protect the seedling as it develops)*
- 4. Keep the seeds moist at 28 degrees until germination. It is also important to keep media well ventilated to prevent anoxic bacteria and fungi from colonising the seed.*

This is very basic but the Milton surface sterilizes the seed and breaks down the hydrophobic seed layer allowing water to imbibe into the seed. The trick is to get the seed up and away before fungal attack.

The better quality the seed the quicker the germination.

The active ingredient of Milton is Sodium hypochlorite, which does the work of speeding up germination. I am unsure of how it is purchased in other countries outside Australia or UK but look for similar products that contain sodium hypochlorite as a %

(Not to be confused with sodium hydroxide-which is in bleach and will kill the seeds).

We need a 0.05% solution but dilution depends on what we have to start with.



If the product is 1% sodium hypochlorite you need to add 1ml product into 20ml water

i.e. $1\%/20=0.05\%$

To sow the seeds we use Jiffy pots. These are widely available at your local nursery.

When we are germinating our chilli seeds we use heat blankets to keep the seeds at a constant temperature of 28 to 32 degree Celsius. This is the best temperature to germinate chilli seeds at.

The germination should take a minimum of around the 5 – 14 days and it is very exciting to see them sprout up!!

After germination they need to grow up and strengthen before you can put them into the soil outside. We keep them until they have at least a couple of leaves and then we select the most healthy looking plants to be sun trained

Yes be careful in the beginning because although chillies like their sun when they are little babies they have to get used to it and need to be slowly introduced to the sun. We use trolleys to move them outside our hothouse and slowly build up the amount of sun. Start with max half an hour and make that longer every day

Then you can transplant the new chilli plants to the soil in either pots or just as is into the garden soil!

They like full sun and when very hot give them water twice or three times a day. They love good food too and if you take really good care of them they will last for years!

After 4 – 6 months the first fruit should appear and you can start harvesting. Wait until they are fully ripe before you pick them to give them that extra heat...



When winter comes around; they do not like it too cold so make sure you put them inside or if you keep them outside over winter: make sure that they have plenty of mulch and newspapers around the stems so they stay nice and warm.

Prune them right back just before the frost will hit them. But when pruning make sure to leave enough of green leaves on the left over branches so the plant can survive the winter and shoot up in spring again. If they survive the winter the whole cycle starts again and this time you should get your fruit sooner in about 4 months because the plants are already established. If you treat your plants well you should get a couple of years of fun out of them Enjoy!!

MORE INFO: <http://thechillifactory.com/growing>