

How to grow your own capsicum



Capsicum can be grown in climate stressed areas of low and high rainfall. It can be planted from seeds and grown for food security and income during harsh times.

1. Nursery

1. Fill seedling tray with fine sterilized soil.
2. Sow 1 packet per seedling tray and cover gently with soil.
3. Water seedlings every morning.



2. Prickling of seedlings

1. After 1 week, gently thin out the healthy seedlings into a small poly cups.
2. Water the seedlings soon after prickling.
3. Place the seedlings outside the nursery for 14 days to harden.



3. Field transplanting

1. Field must be well prepared before transplanting.
2. Transplant seedlings to the field when the seedlings are at 4-5 leaf stage.
3. Water the seedlings soon after transplanting.



4. Field Management

1. **Irrigation** - Make sure crops are kept well watered every day.
2. **Pest and disease**
 - i. To control against pest, use appropriate pesticides.



- ii. To control against disease use tolerant or resistant cultivars. Good sanitation practices like timely removal and burning/burying of diseased plant parts is also the best way to control pest and disease.



- iii. When spraying it is important to spray under the leaves to protect them from bacterial and fungal infestation (the spraying movement should be like the letter "C").

3. Fertilization

1. 1st side dress 1wk after transplanting— apply $\frac{1}{4}$ of a match box of a mixture of N-P-K-Mg & Urea as a ring 15cm away from the base of the plant.
2. 2nd side dressing 3wks after transplanting— again apply $\frac{1}{4}$ of a match box of a mixture of N-P-K-Mg & Urea as a ring 15cm away from the base of the plant.

5. Harvesting

1. Start harvesting about 60 days after transplanting (35-40 days from flowering), and continue on a weekly basis for 2 months.
2. Capsicum should be harvested using a sharp knife when fruits reach full size and become firm, but before turning colour (unless they are intended for mature colour yellow, orange, or red).

