



## **Growing Chillies Successfully**

Thank you for purchasing a chilli plant from Dry River Chillies, we hope it will give you months of pleasure. Below are a few pointers to looking after your Chilli plant

### **Planting in the ground.**

Pick the spot where you want to locate your Chilli plants. This should generally be a spot that receives lots of sun, and is in a well drained. A place where the plant will receive some late afternoon shade is also fine. Dig a hole larger and deeper than the plant you will be transplanting. Add some organic matter (compost, well rotted manure) to the soil that you just removed from the hole and mix together. Put that mixed soil back into the hole. Place the Chilli plant at the same level or slightly deeper than how it was growing in the pot. Backfill with more of the same loose, mixed soil, and when done tap down the soil down around the stem. Place some sort of mulch around the plant as well, which will help keep the soil cool and moist. Water the plant well, around the base of the plant in rings, so that the whole area of mixed soil gets moistened. Water deeply, so that the roots get moistened.

### **Keeping the plant in the pot.**

Chillies look great in containers on the patio or in greenhouses or as house plants. Plants are usually sold in either 1 or 3 liter pots. Generally the larger the pot the bigger, and more productive the plant will be. Some small dwarf varieties will do fine in their original size pots. Keep an eye on watering, it is acceptable to let the top inch or so to dry out between watering. Test the soil with your finger, if dry then soak the plant well, do not leave plant standing in water.

### **When and How to Water Your Chilli Plants**

After transplanting, the plants will need to have consistent soil moisture to nourish them as they start making new roots into their new environment. Depending on the weather, the soil, and the location, this could be daily watering. So for the first few weeks, keep a keen eye on your plants. After that time, keep the plants moist, but not to damp. Mulch is a good idea around the plants. To test the soil moisture, scratch away the mulch and feel the soil a few inches below the surface. Water the soil, not the foliage. Once the plants have established, it is better to water heavy and infrequently, then frequently and light.

### **When and How to Fertilize Your Chilli Plants**

We use Maxicrop seaweed extract, organic water soluble fertiliser and pellet chicken manure on our plants. For the first few weeks we fertilize every week to promote good root growth, and then we fertilize every 3-4 weeks thereafter. A high Nitrogen feed promotes strong growth and good deep green leaf colour, use when the plant is young. A high potassium fertilizer promotes good root growth, use after the first flowers appear, not too much nitrogen. Also a balanced feed every so often help to promote healthy plants. A good tomato feed will probably do a good job of keeping your plant looking in tip top shape. Make sure you do not over do it with the feed as you will end up with a plant looking green but with no fruit!

Good luck with your pepper plant, more information can be found on our website at [www.dryriverchillies.co.uk](http://www.dryriverchillies.co.uk)