

Growing Chile Pepper Plants Indoors

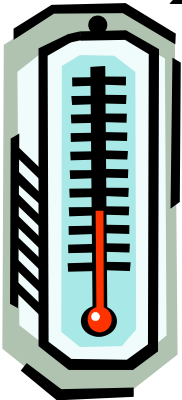
All chile pepper plants need these seven things to grow: room to grow, the right temperature, light, water, air, nutrients, and time.

1. Room to grow.

All plants like to have room to grow. The above ground portions of the plant need space so leaves can expand and carry out the job of making food. Roots also need room to grow. Plants growing in small spaces will have their roots crowded, and that results in smaller amounts of growth. The best chile peppers to grow indoors are dwarf ornamental chile peppers, like the NuMex Holiday Line of Ornamental Chile Peppers.



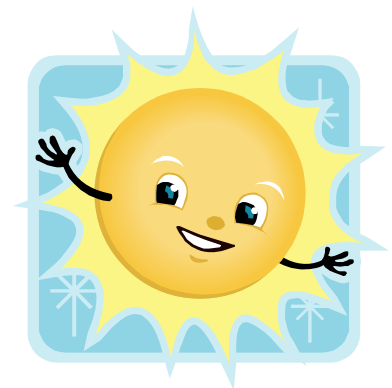
2. Temperature



Most chile pepper plants like temperatures that most humans like. Some may like warmer temperatures while others may prefer more moderate temperatures for best growth. It is always good to know which species prefer which environments. Capsicum annuum, or many of the different types of Ornamental chile peppers prefer lots of sun and moderate humidity, while Capsicum chinense or Habaneros and Scotch Bonnets prefer more moderate temperatures and higher humidity. Most chile pepper plants like to have cooler temperatures at night and don't like to be placed where hot or cold drafts may occur.

3. Light

Chile pepper plants being grown indoors like bright light. Windows facing the south or west have the best light. Try to place the plants close to the window to take advantage of all the light. The further away from the window, the darker it becomes. A plant will tell you when it isn't getting enough light, because its stems will be thin and it will lean toward the light. If you don't have a bright window, try using grow lights. Remember to have the light about six inches above the plants and leave it on for 14-16 hours each day.



4. Water



Water is important to the chile pepper plant's ability to make and move nutrients. Without water or with too much water, a plant dies. For this reason, watering is an important part of plant care. Most chile pepper plants like to be watered when the top of the soil is slightly dry to the touch. When watering, moisten the soil by using enough water so that it starts to come out of the hole in the bottom of the container. (This is why it is important to use containers with drainage holes.) How often you water depends on a lot of things. Plant size, and time of the year, are a couple. Your best guide, though, is to feel the soil. If your using a dish to collect the drainage from watering your pot never let your chile pepper plant sit in water for an extended period of time, this will cause your chile pepper plants roots to rot.

5. Air

Plants use carbon dioxide in the air and return oxygen. Smoke, gases, and other air pollutants can damage plants. Remember that the roots need to breath as well, over watering will cause the roots to die.

6. Nutrients

Most of the nutrients that a chile pepper plant needs are dissolved in water and then taken up by the plant through its roots. Fertilizers will help to keep the soil supplied with nutrients a plant needs. Don't apply too much too often. Fertilizer won't solve all of your plant problems, so make sure your plants have good light, good soil, and good drainage. The three most important nutrients are [nitrogen](#), [phosphorous](#), and [potassium](#). Nitrogen is used for foliage growth. This is what gives plants a dark green color. Phosphorous helps plant cell division. It aids in flower and seed production and in the development of a strong root system. Potassium helps fight off disease and provides for strong stems. A good balanced fertilizer for chile plants is a 15-15-15, which is stated on the package.

7. Time

It takes time to grow and care for chile pepper plants. Some species require more time to grow than others. Getting plants to flower or fruit at a certain time can be challenging. Chile pepper seeds can take anywhere from 14-28 days to germinate, then another 90 days to produce fruit.

