



Some Like it Hot

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Heirloom vs. Hybrid

Heirloom:

- Save seeds - open pollinated
- More flavorful

Hybrid:

- Usually more fruit
- Stronger
- Consistent
- Seeds not true to parent plant

Sprouting Seeds vs. Purchasing Transplants

Sprouting seeds:

- Requires planning ahead
- Greater variety
- Less disease pressure
- Less expensive





Sprouting Seeds vs. Purchasing Transplants

Purchasing Transplants:

- Convenient
- Good for small gardeners
- Might have underlying disease
- Might have insects
- Inspect transplants carefully

Starting Seeds

- Choose container(s) – holes in bottom
- Sterilized garden soil or use seed starting mix
- Sow seed - lightly cover with soil, then sprinkle with water
- Keep moist





Starting Seeds

- **`Damping-off' - wet the base of young plants with Neem oil**
- **Resetting into larger pots produces vigorous transplants**
- **Keep seedlings out of direct sun**
- **Ready to plant in 4 – 5 weeks after sprouting**

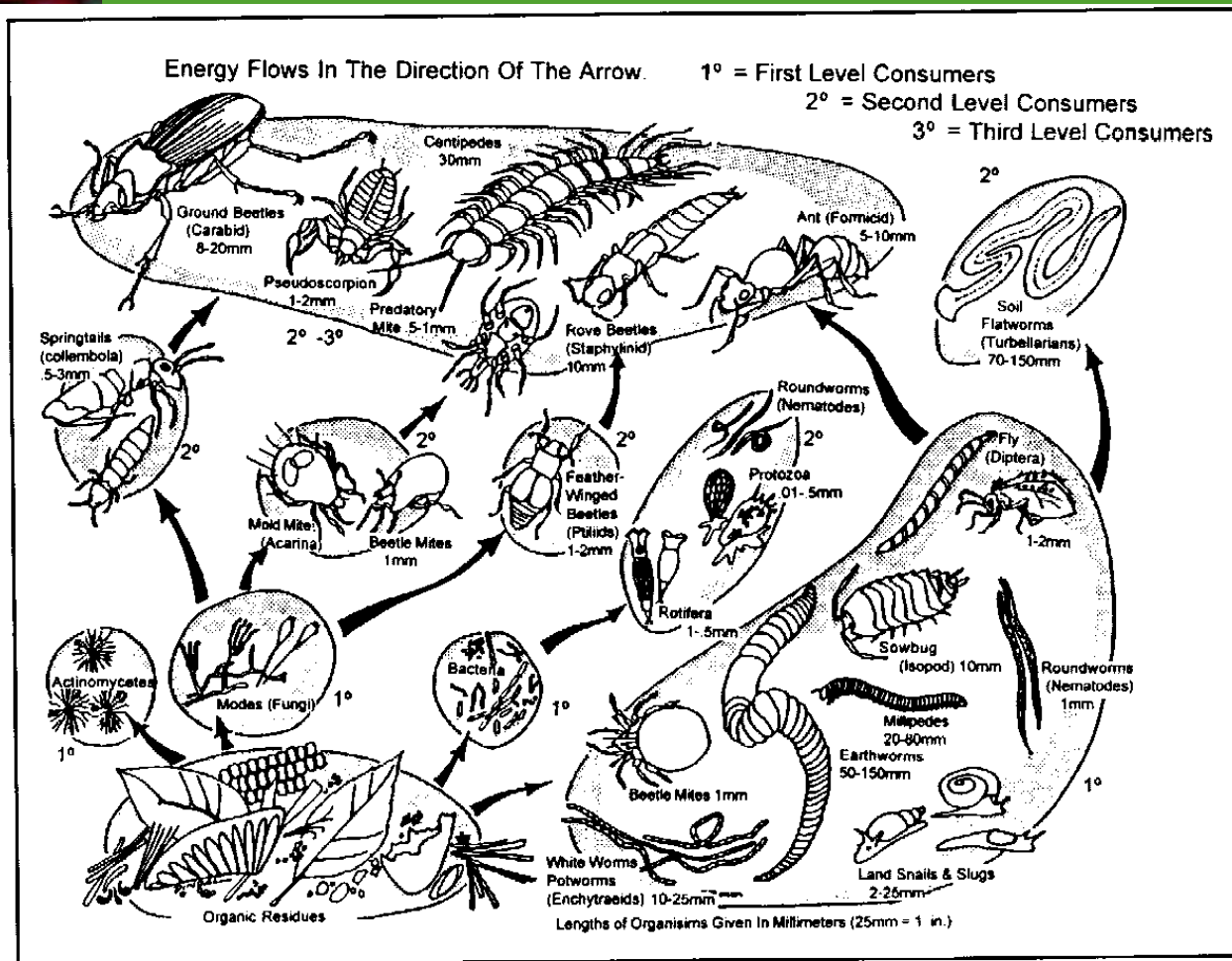
Choosing Transplants

- **Stocky with stout stem**
- **Well formed perfect leaves**
- **Look carefully for insects**
- **Well formed root system – gently remove from pot.**



Soil...

- Healthy soil is alive with organisms



Amendments for Soil

“Feed the soil and the soil will nurture the plants”

Organic Matter

- **Compost**
 - Composted in a bin
 - Purchased
 - Composted in the bed
- **Seaweed**
- **Peat**
- **Manure**

Check pH - 6.3 - 6.9 is best



Planting

Planting dates: Jan.- Mar. or Aug.- Sept.

Water at planting with a starter solution of 1 to 2 T of 6-8-6 fertilizer dissolved in 1 gal. of water

➤ **Shade from direct sun for 2 – 4 days**



Care

- Stake at planting time – or use a cage
- Water plants -1-2 in. of water/week
- Drip irrigation can reduce fungal disease
- Mulch and keep weeds pulled



Fertilizing

- **Apply at planting time**
- **3 weeks after planting as a side dressing**
- **After 3 more weeks, apply at 7 to 10 day intervals.**

Chemical Fertilizers

- **6-8-8, 13-13-13, 10-10-10**
- **Usually petroleum based**

Fertilizer - Organic

- If manure is used, compost it or mix well into the soil 4 - 8 weeks prior to planting.

Commercial Organic fertilizers

- Organic blends - Peggy Green (local), Gardener's Supply, Espoma and others
- Fish emulsion – may also mix with Neem oil for spraying
- Kelp/Seaweed emulsion – fertilizer and growth enhancer
- Epsom salts (MgSO_4) – 1 tsp per gal of water

Pests

Major pests

➤ Caterpillars

- Cutworms
- Army worms
- Loopers
- Leaf miners

➤ Aphids

➤ Pepper weevil

➤ Nematodes



Pest Control

- **Biological controls –**
natural beneficial insects
- **Mechanical controls**
 - Floating row covers
 - Sticky cards (yellow, blue or white)
 - Hand removal
- **Cultural controls**
 - Companion Planting (Intercropping)
- **Solarization – soil borne pests**



Pest Control

➤ Organic pesticides

- *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt)
- horticultural oils – Neem, other plant based oils
- Insecticidal soap
- Copper or Sulphur fungicides
- Spinosad
- Pyrethrums
- Rotenone

➤ Chemical pesticides

- Carbaryl – Seven
- Malathion



Diseases

Damping off –

- Seedlings fall over and die– gently wet seedling stems with Neem oil



Anthracnose

- Primarily on fruit



Bacterial Spot

- Yellow raised spots on young leaves
- Wounds on fruit causing rot



Disease Control

➤ **Crop rotation** – rotate with crucifers or beans

➤ **Sanitation**

➤ **Remove badly infested plants**

Fungal diseases – treat proactively

- Neem oil
- Copper and/or Sulfur fungicide
- *Bacillus subtilis* – creates protective barrier to fungus
- Garlic spray/Milk spray – questionable research results

➤ **Bicarbonate salts** – 0.5% solution – used to treat fungus already on leaves.



SCOVILLE CHILE HEAT GUIDE

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SCOVILLE HEAT UNITES

PEPPER TYPES

15,000,000	Pure Capsaicin
2,000,000 - 5,300,000	U.S. Grade Pepper Spray
1,000,000	Bhut Jolokia
577,000	Red Savina
200,000 - 350,000	Habanero
100,000 - 250,000	Chiltepin
30,000 - 50,000	Cayenne
15,000 - 30,000	Arbol
12,000 - 30,000	Manzano
8,000 - 23,000	Serrano
5,000 - 8,000	Yellow Hot
3,500 - 8,000	Jalepeño Pepper
2,500 - 4,000	Guajillo
1,500 - 2,500	Chilaca
1,000 - 2,500	Pasilla
1,000 - 2,000	Pablano
500 - 2,000	Anaheim
500 - 1,500	Chile Verde
500 - 1,000	Yellow Genetics
500 - 750	Red Chile
0	Sweet Bells



Hot Varieties for Spring Planting

Hungarian Hot Wax - HEIRLOOM - Long, banana-shaped waxy pepper used for frying, stuffing, or for pickled peppers. Ripens from green, pale yellow to deep golden orange to cherry red. Very productive. Harvest at various maturities to control the heat in the flesh of your pepper. **Relative Scoville rating: 750– 3,500. Organic seed available.**

To save seed, let them ripen all the way to red.



Hot Varieties for Spring Planting

Poblano/Ancho - HEIRLOOM - Plants grow 30 inches tall and have yellow flowers. Fruit is 4 to 8 inches and turns from green to red when mature. Called Ancho peppers when dried. Fruit is hotter when mature and red.

Relative Scoville rating: 2,500–5,000.

Organic seed available.



Hot Varieties for Spring Planting

Serrano - HEIRLOOM - a type of chili pepper with crisp, fresh flavor and is an excellent producer. **Serrano** chilies generally tend to have thin skin. They don't need to be steamed or peeled before using. Large plants with club-shaped fruit 2 to 3 inches in length. It ripens from green to red. **Relative Scoville rating: 2,500–10,000.** Organic seed available.



Hot Varieties for Spring Planting

Jalapeño - HEIRLOOM - this is the most popular chile pepper in the United States. Thick-walled, moderately hot pods with deep green color that matures to a bright red are 3 – 3.5 inches long. Plants yield a bountiful harvest in dry or humid, hot climates. The compact plants well in containers. **Relative Scoville rating: 10,000.** Organic seed available.



Hot Varieties for Spring Planting

Habanero- One of the most potent hot peppers — 100 times hotter than Jalapeño! Great for hot sauces and basting. Wrinkled, tapered 1 – 2 inch fruit turn from green to orange. Bear very well in hot weather. Grows well in containers.

Relative Scoville rating: 100,000 - 300,000 (extreme)



Hot Varieties for Spring Planting

Hot Banana – HYBRID -Profuse bearer of 6-inch-long, medium hot peppers. Excellent for pickling, frying, or roasting. Just hot enough to provide a little bite. Produce well even in hot weather. Fruit matures from light yellow to orange to red. Mark these as different from the sweet banana peppers in your garden.

Relative Scoville rating: 5,000 to 10,000



Hot Varieties for Spring Planting

- **Cajun Belle-** HYBRID -an awesome pepper that gives you all the flavor of a sweet pepper combined with a mild but spicy heat. The little peppers ripen from lime green to orange to red. Can be eaten at any stage, but the longer they stay on the plant, the warmer and more flavorful they get. Plants are robust and disease tolerant yet small, they're ideal for small gardens or containers. Each fruit is 2 to 3 inches long. **Relative Scoville rating: 100 – 1000.**



Hot Varieties for Spring Planting

Thai Hot – HEIRLOOM -produces large numbers of 1-inch green fruits that mature to blazing red color with heat and flavor to match! These are extremely hot. This variety grows well in hot, humid regions. Plants are compact, about a foot tall, and perfect for containers. Great ornamental value. The colorful peppers last a long time on the plant. **Relative Scoville rating: 50,000 – 100,000**



Hot Varieties for Spring Planting

Cowhorn cayenne – HEIRLOOM - a giant among chilies – growing up to ten inches in length – and it curves like a cayenne pepper which, with the cowhorn pepper's size, combine to give the impression of a steer's horn. But not all's big in the world of the cowhorn – its heat is low-medium.

Scoville heat range of 2,500 to 5,000





?? Questions ??