

your garden needs...



## ...chilli pepper Caliente Red

Species: *Capsicum frutescens*  
Family: Solanaceae  
Common name: Chilli pepper  
Height: 30cm (12 inches)  
Grow as: tender annual  
Harvest period: August—October

Use the variety **Caliente Red**. [packetseeds.com](http://packetseeds.com) offers a compact variety ideal for growing on windowsills or on patios. Excellent value at 25 seeds per 95 pence packet.

**Caliente Red** is an attractive dwarf, compact chilli pepper which can be grown as a pot or container plant for windowsills or patios.

Plants are dual purpose: they are both decorative and have edible fruits.

The small fruits are initially green, turning red when ripe. Flowers and fruits are upward facing, and are produced on a continuous basis throughout the life of the plant. Dozens of fruit can grow on a single plant.

Plants are easy and quick to grow, requiring no special growing techniques.

Fruits can be used directly from the plant, can be kept in a refrigerator, or can be dried and ground for long term storage. They can also be pickled in brine and eaten as a relish with Italian antipasti.

Chilli peppers originate in tropical South America and have been in cultivation in Europe since at least 1500AD. They were originally used dried and powdered as a substitute for the true pepper, *Piper nigrum*, a vine cultivated only in the humid tropics.



**Growing:** chilli peppers grow best in a warm, sunny location. A greenhouse is ideal, or you can grow in a container on a south-facing patio, or alternatively in a 13cm (5 inch) pot on a windowsill. In the case of **Caliente Red**, the final size of the plant will depend on the size of the pot—grown in a smaller pot, plants will stay small and compact; grown in soil in the greenhouse plants will spread out and become larger.



**Sowing:** sow onto a seed compost from March to May. Germinate at 22°C (72°F). Prick out into cell units when ready. Grow on at a night minimum temperature of 15° - 18°C (60—64°F). Temperatures below 7°C can cause plant damage. Grow in full sun but avoid water on leaves in bright conditions to avoid scorch.