

Chilli FOCUS

Instructions for Use

Propagation

Chillies can be grown from seed or by cuttings; both methods are useful to the grower.

Seeds

Seeds can be started early in the season but they will require a warm environment in which to germinate. If you are starting your seedlings early in the year you will need a heated propagator and, preferably a plant light such as **Nebula**.

March is the ideal month to start planting seeds if you have a propagator. Chilli seeds are not hard to germinate but the success rate will be increased with an overnight soak in a **Nitrozyme** solution.

Add Nitrozyme to tepid water at the rate of 20 ml per litre. Soak the seeds for 24 hours and then plant them immediately.

The seeds can be planted in a seed tray filled with moist seed compost. Place the seeds at regular intervals across the surface. Cover them with a thin layer of extra compost and place the tray into the propagator.



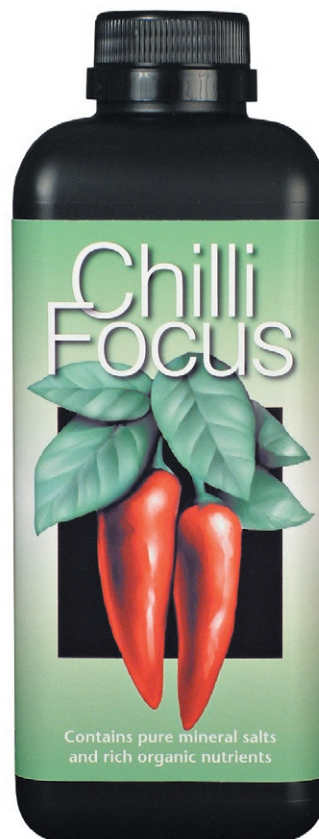
They can also be planted into specialised propagation cubes such as RockWool or **Root Riot**.

Soak the cubes in tepid water and allow to drain. Nitrozyme can be added to the soaking water at 5 ml per litre.



Plant the seeds into the hole provided on the cubes at a depth of around 20 mm. Gently tease a few fibres across the hole to cover up the seeds. Place the tray of cubes into the propagator.

Chilli Focus Analysis	% w/v
Nitrogen (N)	3.0
Nitrate nitrogen	2.8
Ammoniacal nitrogen	0.2
Phosphorus pentoxide (P ₂ O ₅) water soluble (P)	0.9 (0.4)
Potassium oxide (K ₂ O) (K)	4.3 (3.6)
Calcium oxide (CaO) (Ca)	2.2 (1.6)
Boron (B)	0.01
Cobalt (Co)	0.0006
Copper (Cu) chelated by EDTA	0.002
Iron (Fe) chelated by DTPA	0.04
Manganese (Mn) chelated by EDTA	0.013
Molybdenum (Mo)	0.001
Zinc (Zn) chelated by EDTA	0.002
Also contains: magnesium, sulphur, nickel, humic acid and fulvic acid.	



Chilli cultivars can be very variable in their germination times. Some seeds will appear in a few days whilst others can take as long as a month.

Due to the long germination times involved with some cultivars, e.g. habaneros, it will be a great idea to start them indoors, under suitable plant lighting, as early as January. This will ensure plants of suitable size for planting out when the season begins and the maximum possible growing season for that cultivar.

Cuttings

Chillies can be propagated from cuttings at any time in the growing season. Once again a heated propagator will be needed for the best possible results. Cutting material should be selected from a well grown plant that is free from pests and disease.

Prepare the rooting compost or cubes. If using the Root Riot cubes they should be well soaked and then allowed to drain before use. Nitrozyme can be added to the soaking water at 5 ml per litre.

Select a suitable branch and remove from plant with scissors. Remove surplus leaves and then make the final, diagonal cut with a sharp blade. Cut should be just below a leaf node.



Immediately dip the cut end into a rooting gel, such as Clonex, and insert it into the compost, or the hole in the cube.

Mist the cuttings with tepid water and place into the propagator. Check cubes daily and keep them moist.

Ideal conditions for seed germination:

Even warmth – maintain a temperature between 22°C and 28°C at all times. This is easy to do with an electric propagator.

Moisture – keep the rooting medium moist, but never soggy – never allow it to dry out.

Light – light is not necessary until the little seedlings appear but it is essential thereafter. A bright sunny windowsill may serve but by far the best results will be obtained by the use of a fluorescent plant light such as Nebula.



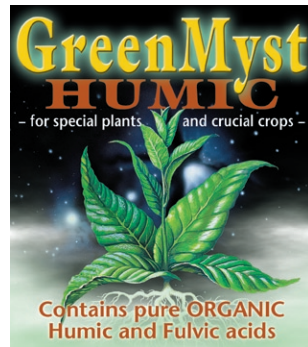
Young plants

Seedlings and cuttings can be planted out as soon as they are well established and have roots showing at the bottom of the cubes. The appearance of the second true leaves is an ideal sign that plants are ready to be potted out. Plant them in moist compost in small pots (8–10 cm) and make sure that they are well located in the medium so that bare stem is well covered in compost right up to the first set of leaves. This will allow the development of new root structures up the stem and add strength to the plant.

Chillies need a well drained substrate and some of the peat based composts can hold a little too much water to be ideal for chillies. Some coarse sand or grit can be mixed into the medium very easily and this is highly recommended. The soil can be much improved by an application of **GreenMyst Humic**. The pure humic acids add fertility to the medium in several ways, most notably by stimulating and sustaining the populations of beneficial microflora and fauna.

Add GreenMyst Humic to water at 1–5 ml per litre. Gently water into soil before planting out. Save any run-off for re-use around the garden.

GreenMyst Humic can be applied to the soil at regular intervals throughout life of the plants.



At this stage light is of crucial importance to the young plants. If they are poorly lit they will become spindly and exhibit pale foliage. A sunny greenhouse will be the ideal place now – provided that temperatures are in the ideal range for growth. Failing this a plant light, such as **Nebula**, will be a great way of ensuring compact bushy plants.

The new plants will now need regular nutrition.

Mix **Chilli Focus** at 5 ml (one teaspoon) per litre of water. Apply to the plants weekly.

If plants look pale then feeding can be scaled up. Increase frequency of feeding rather than strength of feed at this stage.

Pale plants may also need more light. Chillies do best under proper plant lighting, such as Nebula lights, or ideally in full sunlight.

Vegetative plants

The vegetative stage of growth covers the period leading up to flowering. Feeding should be maintained at 5 ml per litre. Feed weekly but increase frequency if plants look pale.

Flowering and fruiting plants

Once flowering is underway the feeding strength can be increased to 10 ml per litre. Feed weekly at least.

Growth Technology
www.growthtechnology.com

Nitrozyme

Nitrozyme is a concentrated extract of marine plants containing a complex profile of organic plant nutrients and growth promoting compounds.

Nitrozyme can be used throughout the growing cycle of all plants and is especially beneficial to chillies. It can be applied to the roots when watering – or it can be applied as a foliar spray.

Nitrozyme is available from your local retailer of Growth Technology products.

Available in 100 ml, 300 ml, 1 litre, 5 litres.



Root Riot

Root Riot cubes are manufactured in New England from organic materials.

They have a wonderful spongy texture and the results they deliver are superb.

Available in trays of 24 cubes, in refill packs of 100, and also in case lots of 1400.

Clonex

Clonex is a rooting hormone gel, known and used all over the world.

The gel based product will remain in contact with the stem tissue for far longer than a powder, allowing maximum exposure to the root promoting agents in the formulation. This is why Clonex works so well.

This product is highly recommended.

Available in 50 ml, 250 ml, 1 litre.



Nebula

Nebula lighting is based on the new high powered PL fluorescent lamps.

They have a very blue-white colouration that is ideal for optimal plant growth. It is also a great light for showing off plants to their best, accentuating the greens of the foliage and the bright colours of the flowers.

These lights are built specifically for plants and cannot be compared with ordinary fluorescent lighting.

Available in 2 tube and 4 tube versions, as well as the budget model – Nebula Hobby.

