



Six months old cuttings ready for transplanting



One year old bush pepper plant in pot

19:19:19 @ 4 gram per liter water at 10 days interval is effective for promoting flowering and yield of berries. Vermicompost @ 100 grams per pot twice in a year and Urea 2.0g, SSP 3.0g and MOP 3.5g per pot can be applied once in three months. Sometimes newly emerged leaf show total chlorosis, in that case spraying with 0.05% Magnesium sulphate two to three times at weekly interval give quick recovery.

Plant Protection Measures:

There are very less chance of disease-pest infestation in bush pepper as it grow in pots with mixture enriched with neem cake, periodical application of bio-control agent like *Trichoderma harzianum* and close monitoring. However, need based spray with 0.2% copper oxychloride can effectively control *Phytophthora* foot rot and neem based pesticide like NeemGold, Neemazole or Neemomax can effectively control the sucking insects like mealy bug, thrips and mites. In older plants scale insect may attack the stem, suck the sap of the stem and make the plant sick and later die. It can be controlled by spraying of systemic insecticide like Imidacloprid (Admire) 1.0g per 5 liter of water at 7 to 10 days interval for three conjunctive sprays.

Harvesting and yield: There are no specific harvesting time or season since the bush pepper produce green berries throughout the year, harvesting of green mature berries can be done as and when required. Plant start fruiting in the first year of planting and average 1 kg green berries per bush could be obtained during second year of planting. The yield increases during subsequent years and about 2-3 kg green berries per plant per year can be obtained during the fourth year of planting under proper management practices.



Bush pepper under shade net house



Extension Bulletin



BUSH PEPPER : AN OPTION FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE



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BUSH PEPPER: AN OPTION FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE

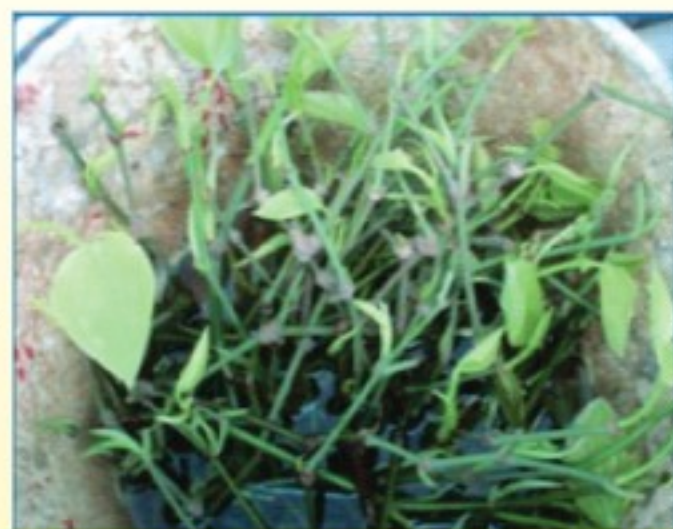
A Pepper vine that grows like a bush, gives round the year yield and looks more like an ornamental plant in a pot is called a Bush pepper. Bush pepper, which is decorative as well as productive, gives a yield not less than 1kg of fresh pepper in a year. Since it produces spikes from all the twigs as the plant is raised from the lateral branches (fruiting branches or plagiotropic branches), the grower gets pepper in different ripeness round the year. It can be grown in a pot at the kitchen, veranda, and balcony or even on the terrace. One only needs to protect it from direct sun rays. One can easily keep three to four pots in a single house and is most suited for apartments, especially in cities. If attended well, four to five bush pepper plants can meet the complete pepper requirement of a house in a year with green fresh berries that give a joy of taste and flavor.



Gives ornamental look in the front entrance of a house

condition variety Panniyur-1 and Karimunda produce more attractive canopy with luxuriant growth and berry production.

How to prepare cuttings of Bush pepper: In the month of May-June the black pepper vines are in very active growth stage. New leaf bud start appearing and it is the time for taking cuttings. Select previous year healthy laterals from the fruiting/plagiotropic branches with 3 nodes and all the leaves except the flag leaf are removed. Too young and too old that turn into dark brown colour are to be avoided. Make a bundle of the cuttings and dip the cut end of the shoots in a bucket immediately after taking cuttings containing solution of Copper Oxychloride (Blitox-50) with 0.2% concentration and keep for half an hour. Prepare poly bags of 7x8 inch size and filled it up with a media containing 2 part coco peat, 1 part well rotten cowdung, 1 part vermicompost and 1 part top soil.



3 nodes laterals ready for cutting



Poly bags for raising cuttings

The plant, which will start giving yield in six months, needs only minimal irrigation, “may be as much water one uses to wash hands” daily. A Bush pepper plant, which needs only organic manures, is also less prone to disease.

How to prepare Bush pepper cutting- the Technology:

Time of taking cutting: The best time of taking bush pepper cutting is May-June in Assam.

Selection of Varieties: There is no any varietal preference for bush pepper, however in Assam



Cuttings raised in poly bags



Emergence of new shoots

Watering should be done judiciously to keep the media and environment moist. The cuttings start producing new shoots after 45 to 50 days of cutting. Keep these cuttings in poly bags for six months for better establishment. Time to time spray with a lower dose of Copper Oxychloride @ 0.1% is essential to keep the cuttings healthy till transplanting.

Selection of Container and Transplanting:

Bush pepper is well-suited for container gardening, making it a good option for small spaces and terraces which provide better option to the urban dwellers. Various types of container and size can be selected as per the choice of the growers and based on longevity of the plant. The best container depends on factors like weight, durability, porosity, temperature, and aesthetics, with plastic being light weight and durable, ceramic offering aesthetic appeal, concrete and fibre glass being very durable. The size of the pot/container should be 16 to 18 inch diameter or a capacity to accommodate minimum 20 kg mixture. There should be minimum 3 to 4 nos. drainage holes below the container.

Potting Mixture: A potting mixture containing Neem cake + Silt Soil + Cow dung + Vermicompost at 1:2:2:2 ratio can effectively be used for growing Bush Pepper. Application of Trichoderma harziannum (10 grams per pot) along with neem cake to the potting mixture is beneficial to prevent phytophthora root rot. Six months old cuttings are then transplanted to the pots/ container filled with potting mixture. While transplanting, the poly bags should be carefully removed from the bush pepper seedlings without disturbing the ball and put it in the middle of the container. Irrigate the plant just after transplanting. Cuttings in the container grow like a bush and flower in the same year itself.

After Care: The pots should be protected from rain and intense sun light. Expose the bush pepper plant to morning sunshine for proper growth and fruiting. Over watering and over shading may lead to diseases and pest attack and less fruiting. Foliar spray of water soluble NPK

For early and better rooting, the cuttings are to be dipped in 1000 ppm IBA for 45 second or smear the cut end with 02 grade readymade powder rooting hormone. Insert the hormone treated cuttings in the poly bags so that the basal node should be gone inside the media. Give light watering with a water cane for establishment of the cuttings.

Keep the cuttings preferably under shade net house with 50% shade.



Plastic, light weight and durable pots for growing bush pepper