

CHILLI FOCUS INSTRUCTIONS

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 fluorescent T5 plant lighting such as **LightWave T5**.

Instructions for Use

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/ROOT IT!**, 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.

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.

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 smallish 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, grit or Perlite 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 then modern plant lighting – such as the LightWave T5 series – will produce compact bushy plants with lustrous healthy leaves.

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 T5 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

Chilli Focus Analysis

Analysis % w/v

Nitrogen (N) 2.98

Nitrate nitrogen 2.80

Ammoniacal nitrogen 0.18

Phosphorus pentoxide

(P₂O₅) water soluble (P) 0.97 (0.42)

Potassium oxide (K₂O) (K) 4.39 (3.65)

Calcium oxide (CaO) (Ca) 2.20 (1.57)

Boron (B) 0.0108

Cobalt (Co) 0.0006

Copper (Cu) chelated by EDTA 0.0014

Iron (Fe) chelated by EDTA 0.0396

Manganese (Mn)

chelated by EDTA 0.0131

Molybdenum (Mo) 0.0012

Zinc (Zn) chelated by EDTA 0.0036

Also contains: magnesium, sulphur, nickel, humic acid and fulvic acid.

Nitrozyme

Nitrozyme growth enhancer is particularly suitable for use with chillies, which respond very well to regular applications.

- Nitrozyme contains rich organic nutrients and growth promoters derived from natural marine sources.
- Nitrozyme can be used throughout the growing season from seedling to fruit production. Simply mix with water, and water into the root zone. Nitrozyme can also be applied as a foliar spray at any time.
- Nitrozyme is highly concentrated and goes a long way.

Feeding chillis

Mix up the Chilli Focus at the rates recommended on the label. Plants can be fed from the seedling stage onwards. The recommendation is to feed weekly but this can be increased as needed. As long as foliage is dark green then feeding is adequate but if it becomes pale then feeding can be increased.

Increase frequency of feeding rather than feed strength. Plants can be fed up to three or four times per week without problems.

