

# easy grow guide

## Hot Pepper Atomic

(Capsicum frutescens)



### Plug Production: 288 plugs or larger

<b>Sowing/Media:</b>	Use a well-drained, disease-free, peat based plug medium with pH 5.5-5.8, EC 1.0-1.5mmhos.
<b>Germination Stage 1: (5-7 days)</b>	Media should be saturated and humidity needs to be high until radicle emergence. Temperature should be 70-75°F (21-24°C). Light is not necessary for germination so a very light covering of vermiculite or growing medium can aid humidity.
<b>Germination Stage 2: (7-14 days)</b>	Once radicles emerge, maintain media temperature at 65-75°F (18-24°C). Once cotyledons are fully open, allow the media to become moist, not saturated and maintain even moisture. Humidity can now be reduced. Keep light levels between 1000-2000 f.c. LED lights can be used to boost light levels during periods of low light.
<b>Germination Stages 3&amp;4:</b>	Temperature can now be kept around 65-75°F (18-24°C) but reduced slightly during the night. Dry media down slightly between irrigations but avoid wilt. Increase light levels to around 2500 -3000 f.c, this will help stop stretching. Fertilize as required using balanced calcium fertiliser such as a 14-0-14 at 50-100ppm. Keep media pH at 5.5-5.8 and EC 1.0-1.5 mmhos.

### Growing On to Finish: 8”(20cm) - 12”(30cm) pot/ hanging basket

<b>Media:</b>	Use a well-drained, disease free, peat-based growing mix with pH 5.5-6.2 and EC 1.5-2.5 mmhos.
<b>Temperatures:</b>	Day temperatures can be 65-70°F (18-21°C), night temperatures can be 55-60°F (13-16°C).
<b>Light:</b>	Light levels should be increased and maintained at 4000-5000 f.c.
<b>Irrigation:</b>	Once plants have established, practice a good wet/dry cycle to aid root development and control plant height. This will also help with pest and disease pressures. As flowers begin to initiate, allow plants to flag/wilt. This will stress the plants into producing more flowers, and therefore more fruits. It also helps control plant height. Once fruit has set, do not allow to flag/wilt. This will prevent fruit termination and blossom end rot.
<b>Fertiliser:</b>	Feed every other watering with a balanced fertiliser such as 13-2-13 or 15-0-15 at a rate of 150-200ppm. Calcium is important. Add calcium to your fertiliser or use a calcium based product. If growing to fruit set or further, increase fertigation to every watering.
<b>Growth Regulators:</b>	Good moisture and fertiliser management combined with the correct light levels and temperatures should limit the need for PGRs. This variety is naturally compact. DO NOT USE
<b>Pests:</b>	Whitefly, Aphid
<b>Diseases:</b>	Pythium

### Plug Times:

<b>288 plug:</b>	21-28 days from sowing to transplant
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### Transplant to Finish:

Container	Plants/Container	Transplant to retail	Total Crop Time
<b>8” (20cm) Pot</b>	1 x plug	14-16 weeks	17-19 weeks
<b>12” (30cm) Pot</b>	1 x plug	15-17 weeks	18-20 weeks

Crop times are based on optimum conditions. Alternative environmental conditions and cultural regimes can lengthen the crop times stated above.