Dear Friends, I am Carlo Martini and this is my humble Guide Growing Chili Peppers. I really hope you will understand my very bad English, enjoy your seeds from Semi Strani, here is my Ebay Shop: [http://stores.ebay.it/semistrani](http://stores.ebay.it/semistrani) - for any questions [info@semistrani.com](mailto:info@semistrani.com) - to join my super group on Facebook, where you can ask tips and share pics of your plants with fans and big experts from all over the world [https://www.facebook.com/groups/semistrani/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/semistrani/)

The ranking of the hottest chillies in the world is given by the Scoville Scale, whose value expressed in **SHU (Scoville Heat Units)**, it determines the hotness of a chili plant, to make a comparison consider that the traditional hot pepper that you can find in any supermarket, the Red Cayenne, it's about 30,000 SHU.

Keep on hand the following **TABLE CHILI WORLDWIDE** I prepared and updated to begin of 2015: there is shown the ranking of each pepper, the heat expressed in SHU, provenance, temperature and days needed to germination, the latter figure is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT during sowing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>HEAT</th>
<th>PROVENANCE</th>
<th>GERMINATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Carolina Reaper</td>
<td>2,200,000 SHU</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>22 / 32 °Celsius (70 / 90 °F) in 10/20 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Trinidad Moruga Scorpion (all colors)</td>
<td>2,200,000 SHU</td>
<td>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
<td>22 / 32 °Celsius (70 / 90 °F) in 10/20 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Naga Morich, Naga Viper, Naga Dorset, Bhut Jolokia, Infinity Chili (Eng)</td>
<td>1,000,000 SHU</td>
<td>India, England</td>
<td>22 / 32 °Celsius (70 / 90 °F) in 08/20 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) 7 Pod (all colors)</td>
<td>800,000 SHU</td>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>22 / 32 °Celsius (70 / 90 °F) in 08/20 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Habanero Red Savina</td>
<td>577,000 SHU</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>22 / 32 °Celsius (70 / 90 °F) in 08/20 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06) Habanero (all colors), Scotch Bonnet, Jamaican Hot Pepper, Bird Eye, Burkina Yellow, Monkey Nipples</td>
<td>125,000 / 350,000 SHU</td>
<td>Mexico, Caribbean, Africa</td>
<td>22 / 32 °Celsius (70 / 90 °F) in 08/20 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>SHU</td>
<td>Origin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Malagueta, Thay Dragon, Rocotò</td>
<td>60,000 / 100,000 SHU</td>
<td>Brazil, Thailand, Caribbean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Tabasco, Aji rojo, Calabrese</td>
<td>50,000 SHU</td>
<td>Mexico, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Cayenne (all colors), Peter Pepper</td>
<td>30,000 SHU</td>
<td>Mediterranean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Jalapeno, Anaheim, Serrano</td>
<td>10,000 / 20,000 SHU</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Cherry Pepper and Bacio di Satana</td>
<td>5,000 SHU</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHAPTER 1: SOWING STAGE**

All plants of chilli, except Cayenne, Calabrese, Cherry Pepper and the Satan's Kiss, are of Caribbean/Tropical origin, are then used to be born in places where it is warm all year round. They have a germination and growth slow as they are not forced by nature to bear fruit quickly because the onset of winter. Once born are all plants easy to manage, things a bit more complicated, especially for beginners, is precisely the stage of germination, where you go from seed to seedling. Plant your seeds during the day of the new moon in the months of January, February or March at the most; unless you have the opportunity to plant in this period you can still sow until June although it will be very likely that you will get the fruiting the summer of the following year.

The plants, if treated as I will explain later, will live for many years. The precise day of the new moon of each month you can find it easily on google. Take for instance the hottest chilli in the world, entered the Guinness Book of Records in December 2013, the legendary CAROLINA REAPER: as you can see from the table the seeds germinate at a temperature of at least 22 degrees Celsius... here is the main difficulty: to create an environment so hot in January or February. My advice is to buy a propagator with a lot of seed beds, soil for planting and thermometer. The propagator creates a little warm and humid, with this heat I suggest you keep between 24 and 28 degrees (28 °C is the perfection) it is certain that the seeds germinate and that they do so more quickly. If you do not want to buy a propagator, plant your seeds in a pot by placing it near a heat source such as a radiator can be, watching the fact that is neither too far nor too close to maintain a temperature between 24 and 28 degrees (70 / 90 °F)... you will need a digital thermometer with which to control.

Take your seeds and put them in a glass of water for 24 hours before sowing, in doing so the seeds will "understand" that it is time to sprout. The next day you take your seedbed or jar and fill it with soil seed, generally composed of 50%
from normal soil and 50% sand. You must be absolutely certain that you will use
a soil with NO trace of fertilizer, must be so light, otherwise it will burn the
seeds. Fill your containers up to half a centimeter from the top, put some water
preferably warm, put your seeds pulling out from the water and gently cover
them with half a centimeter of soil that is missing to get on top of the jar or
seedbed that used. Put again some drops of water. Do not ever pressed the soil
into the container you are using for sowing or you could choke the seed. Once
buried all your seeds take a nylon film as that used in the kitchen and cover your
pots or seedbed to keep even more to the right temperature and humidity as
shown in the following photo seedbed 1. Remember that you can quietly putting
4 or 5 seeds per cavity (if you use a seedbed like photo 1), if you use a vase or
any other container remember to sow the seeds distancing from each other at
least one centimeter.

Now you have to put your seedbed or vase near a heat source such a radiator,
monitoring with a thermometer, the temperature does not drop NEVER UNDER
20 DEGREES °C (68 °F) and preferably is maintained between 24 and 28
degrees °C ALWAYS (75 / 82 °F). Never expose the seeds to direct sunlight, in
an attempt to raise the temperature, because doing so will burn the seeds for
both the heat for too much light. The ideal situation because in addition to
temperature is a penumbra until the seeds are not born and open in their
features two green leaves. Don't put your seedbed or pot over the heat source,
otherwise the seeds will not germinate and because you will boiled them. To
keep the heat during the night, in the case switching off the radiators, equipment boxes of wood or cardboard which are good insulators temperature.

At this point, the stage of sowing is over and you just have to wait for the days indicated for each species in the table ... in the case of Carolina Reaper if you did everything right you will see the first seedlings emerge after about ten days. Waiting for sprouting you just have to remember two points:

1) Remove the nylon film and spray with warm water once a day, being very careful that the soil always appears moist and not soggy or you could rot seeds. After spraying water refit the nylon film.

2) Check the temperature of your thermometer, you’ll have to lay it on top of your pot or seed-bed BELOW the nylon film, is between 24 and 28 degrees ... NEVER FAR DOWN THE TEMPERATURE BELOW 20 DEGREES OTHERWISE NOT BORN ANYTHING.

What a joy will be to see your plants born!

CHAPTER 2: VEGETATIVE STAGE

The vegetative stage is the moment from the seed sprout to the birth of the first flowers and then the fruiting. At this stage, which is more or less from February until June, you will have to transplant the seedlings from the original container in which it was born the seed in a pot with a diameter of about 10 cm and a height of 10 centimeters. Very gently remove the seedling from seedbeds possibly with the soil that have around the roots and place it in the new pot.

The new pot will have to have a base composed of one or two centimeters of pumice stone or similar (that is very important to serve to proper drainage), then put the soil with a percentage of 80% topsoil and 20% perlite (those little white pebbles neutral ph serving to let the water flow and grow the roots of the plant without encountering much difficulty), place the seedling (one per pot) and then cover with a centimeter stone pumice or similar so that the jar keeps the right humidity and the sun does not burn too quickly the soil and its nutritional properties.

REMEMBER:

- All Chili plants below 10 degrees °C (50 °F) they do DIE.
- All plants chili below 20 degrees °C (68 °F) they do NOT GROW.
- Expose the plants of chili in the sun as much as possible as soon as they have done at least 4 leaves.
- If the night temperature drops to 10 degrees °C (50 °F) put the plants away from the cold.

In the months of April, May and June watering the plants for the day of the full moon (when the moon attracts more Earth and when, thanks to this attraction, the plants grow more) with a liquid fertilizer, I suggest the universal one with NPK 20-20-20 that is to say a source of nourishment of wide radius in both nitrogen (crucial in vegetative phase), phosphorus and potassium (important for the health of the plant and even more during the fruiting).
If you prefer to do an organic growing, use just a natural fertilizer... as i say lot of "merda e amore" (shit and love).

When the plants will be too big for the pot of 10 cm in diameter, you'll know if pulling out the plant from the pot there will be all the roots in a circle around the perimeter of the vessel, transplant them in a larger pot. The choice of the vessel depends on the space you have available, I usually use 14-liter vessel having a diameter of about 30 cm, these vessels will get a harvest similar to what you would get by planting them in the ground in a field. It goes without saying that the more the plant is large and the larger the harvest. Remember that in the very hot days of June, July and August you will have to water the plants (possibly after sunset) daily.

**CHAPTER 3: BLOOMING and CHILI HARVEST**

We are more or less in the period between May and June and the first flowers begin to bloom on our beautiful plants of chili. It's a great satisfaction isn't it? Fine! At this stage you'll have to just remember to water your plants every day. Towards the beginning of July you can start collecting your beloved chiles, the first fruits start right in July, depending of course on the species. Fruiting you will continue as long as it will be warm and depending on the area you live even until late October early November.

Once collected the peppers, cut them in half, arrange on a plate and let the sun a few days as shown in Photo 2 with part of my harvest in 2014, of a single plant of Scotch Bonnett ... this is the old method old for hundreds of years, otherwise you can arrange them on a baking sheet in the oven for a few hours at 50 degrees still leaving the door slightly open the oven to release humidity. The drying is finished when the peppers in hand tightening will crumble. If you want a nice spicy pasta you can still use fresh chillies, cut into small pieces and fry with onion and / or garlic. Remember to treat these peppers with gloves and NEVER EVER touch you EYES OR MOUTH while handling them ... you risk burn ... it happened to me and it's not a good thing.
CHAPTER 4: WHAT TO DO WITH PLANTS AFTER THE HARVEST

These tropical plants live for a few years (4 or 5) when treated properly. Obviously they could not survive our European winter, then to make sure they get the following spring once you have collected all the peppers you'll have to prune them firmly, leaving only the main branches and some leaves and usually between late October and early November put them in the house or at least to a spot where the temperature never drops below 10 degrees. Doing so in February of the following year and then after just 3 or 4 months the plant will begin his new growing season and you can repeat the steps above again and get a new and definitely more lush and bountiful harvest.

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