

Capsicum

Capsicum annuum · Nightshade family

DIFFICULTY Moderate

TYPE Tender perennial, grown as annual, seedling

MATURITY 70–90 days



SUN
Full sun, warm



WATER
Regular, even



SOIL PH
6.0–6.8



SPACING
40–50cm



DEPTH
as per seedling

01 Support helps

Capsicum plants can topple once loaded with fruit, especially in wind. A simple stake or small cage keeps branches from snapping.



staked and loosely tied as it grows

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant seedlings once the soil and nights are reliably warm.
SOIL	Rich, well-drained, high organic matter.
TIMING	Plant in late spring once frost risk has fully passed.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

03 Growing care

- Stake as plants grow, especially heavily fruiting varieties.
- Water evenly — stressed plants drop flowers and fruit.
- Feed with a potassium-rich fertiliser once fruiting starts.
- Pick some fruit green to encourage more to set.

04 Problems

- **Aphids** — cluster on new growth; hose off or encourage predators.
- **Blossom end rot** — irregular watering; keep moisture consistent.
- **Sunscald** — exposed fruit in intense sun; keep foliage cover intact.
- **Poor fruit set** — extreme heat; provide light afternoon shade in very hot zones.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Full size and colour for the variety — green capsicums can be picked earlier, coloured ones need more time.
METHOD	Cut with secateurs, leaving a short stem.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Fridge crisper, 1–2 weeks.
PRESERVING	See Canning & Bottling (canning a tomato glut) or Root Cellaring (storing potatoes) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Basil Onion Carrot	Fennel Brassicas	Avoid following other nightshades for 2–3 years.