

Chilli

Capsicum spp. · Nightshade family

DIFFICULTY Easy–moderate

TYPE Tender perennial, grown as annual, seedling

MATURITY 70–100 days



SUN
Full sun, warm



WATER
Moderate, even



SOIL PH
6.0–6.8



SPACING
40–50cm



DEPTH
as per seedling

01 Support helps

A light stake keeps chilli bushes from splitting under a heavy fruit load, especially for prolific varieties.



staked and loosely tied as it grows

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant seedlings once nights are reliably warm.
SOIL	Rich, well-drained.
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.

04 Problems

- **Aphids** — cluster on new growth; hose off.
- **Blossom end rot** — irregular watering.
- **Fruit fly** — net or bag ripening fruit.
- **Sunscald** — keep foliage cover over exposed fruit.

03 Growing care

- Stake as needed once fruit sets heavily.
- Water evenly — stress can affect fruit heat and yield.
- Feed with a potassium-rich fertiliser once fruiting.
- Pick regularly to encourage continued production.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Full colour for the variety — chillies can also be picked green and less hot.
METHOD	Cut with scissors or secateurs, leaving a short stem.
CURING	Can be dried whole or strung for storage.
STORAGE	Fresh: fridge 1–2 weeks. Dried: airtight, a year or more.
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.