

ORNAMENTAL PEPPER 'PRAIRIE FIRE'

Capsicum Annuum 'Prairie Fire'



Characteristics

- Type: Annual
- Zones: 4 - 9
- Height: 6 - 12 inches
- Space: 9-12 Inches
- Sun: Full Sun
- Bloom Season: Late spring to late summer
- Fruit Color: Yellow, orange, red and purple
- Fruit Size: 1 Inch
- Environment: Full sun
- Soil Type: Moist, well-drained
- Fruit: Flavorful, tangy
- **Scoville heat units (SHU):** 70,000 – 80,000 SHU

Culture

Ornamental 'Prairie Fire' is a compact ornamental annual plant. This plant is often called Christmas Pepper, because of its popularity for growing as a Christmas gift. Pepper 'Prairie Fire' is a small, only 12 inches tall, sprawling plant. It bears upright chilies that constantly change colors from yellow to orange, then red and eventually purple at full maturity. The fruits of Ornamental Chili Pepper Prairie Fire are unique in appearance because they stand out above foliage creating a colorful eye-catching display. Chili Pepper Ornamental 'Prairie Fire' is a robust plant for outdoor borders or for growing indoors in pots. It features cascading to the ground branches, and this growth habit makes the plant an excellent groundcover. The fruits of this *Capsicum Annuum* are edible and have bright, fruity, and hot flavor. The cut branches are used in floral designs.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Capsicum plants make excellent bedding and border plants during the summer. They like to be in a warm environment. Place the Ornamental Pepper plant in a sunny window and keep the soil moist but not waterlogged. Prairie fire peppers may look more like little Christmas lights (or even Light Bright pegs) than chili peppers, but you're in for a real surprise if you pop one in your mouth. There's surprising heat, comparable to spicy Thai peppers, and a fruity undertone to these chilies that's more flavorful than your typical ornamental pepper. Though it's their looks where they shine, with a multitude of chilies growing on one plant in a wide array of colors. It's a prime option for colorful landscaping and container gardening. Their size belies a real fire here. ***With a Scoville heat range from 70,000 to 80,000 Scoville Heat Units (SHU), 'Prairie Fire' peppers sit well above our jalapeño reference point. They are nine to thirty-two times hotter than jalapeño.***

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Fungal and bacterial leaf spot, wilt, mosaic virus and stem/root rot may occur. Potential insect pests include aphids, white flies, cutworms, pepper maggots and Colorado potato beetles.

Garden Uses

Bedding, edging, containers, window boxes and houseplants.