

Heat Up the Holidays with Christmas Chili Peppers

The Christmas chili pepper plant (*Capsicum annuum*) owes its common name to the multi-colored peppers in the shape and size of Christmas tree lights. The peppers change color as they mature. There are several named varieties, like 'Bolivian Rainbow' and 'Prairie Fire.' Another common name is ornamental peppers because many people find them too hot to eat. In our region they are annuals and the deer, usually, leave them alone. The peppers grow well as house plants or outside as potted plants which are brought inside for the winter.



Ornamental Chili Pepper



Bolivian Rainbow Pepper



Multi (color) Pepper

They are easy to grow from seeds or seedlings: normal potting soil, 2-4 hours of light and moist, but not soggy, soil. The colorful pepper fruit will last on the plant for weeks. Move over poinsettias!

