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A New Pepper : Peter Piper

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A New Pepper



PETER PIPER

F₁ of Morgold (S. D. Selection) x Harris Improved Squash (S. D. Selection-60)

FRUIT—Fruits are medium and blocky in shape. They are all meat with good red color and have a very delightful flavor.

PLANT—The plant is medium in size, with fair amount of foliage cover. The fruits are set close into the branches.

PRODUCTIVE—It is a heavy producer throughout the season. Sets well in spring under cool conditions. It also sets heavily in hot, dry weather.

MATURITY—Well cared for plants will produce excellent peppers in South Dakota by July 4.

Production Tips

Heavy production of a high quality pepper depends mainly upon the variety, climate conditions, and cultural practices. These cultural practices increase chances for a good sweet pepper harvest.

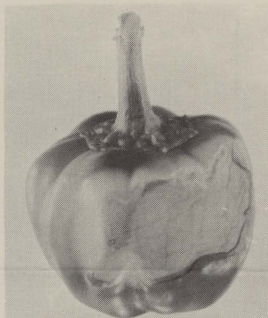
1. Prepare a garden site thoroughly and carefully. Any garden soil which holds moisture fairly well and has a liberal supply of organic matter is an ideal soil for pepper production.
2. Rake in 15 pounds of 12-12-12 fertilizer or its equivalent for each 1,000 square feet before planting. Reduce fertilizer by 50% if manure is used. Excessive nitrogen is likely to cause the plants to make foliage growth and not set fruits.
3. Plant a variety recommended for South Dakota conditions. (See Extension Leaflet 203.)
4. Transplant peppers 1 week after the first frost-free date in your area. The transplant should be 6 to 8 inches tall.
5. Use ½ to 1 pint of starter solution (1 ounce of 12-12-12 in 2 gallons of water) per plant at the time of transplanting.
6. Leave 20 to 24 inches between plants and 30 to 36 inches between rows.
7. Shallow cultivation should be done as often as possible.
8. Water the plants as they require it. Watering should be done before noon. If water for irrigation is not available, use mulch to preserve soil moisture.
9. Apply 2 tablespoons of ammonium nitrate around each plant (6 to 8 inches away from the main stem) after the first fruit set.
10. Harvest fruit carefully to avoid damaging the plant.

Take proper steps to check insects and diseases.

By Paul Prashar, assistant professor of horticulture

The following insects and diseases are more important in South Dakota.

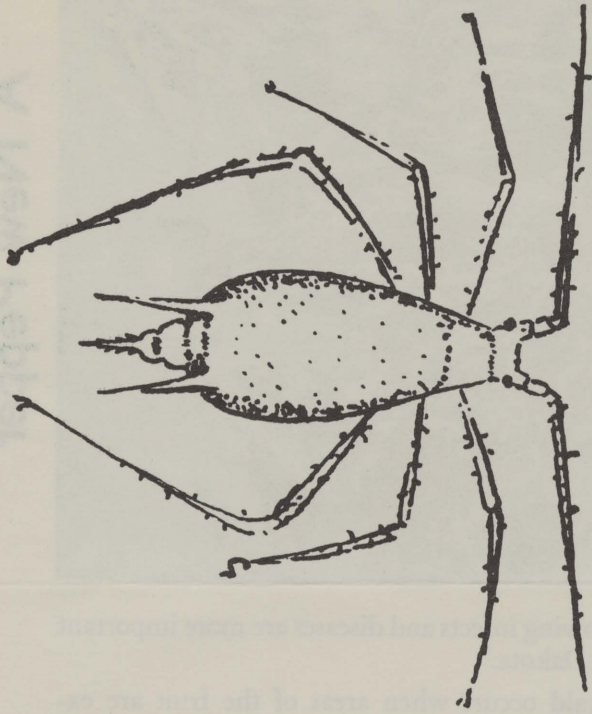
Sunscald occurs when areas of the fruit are exposed to direct sunlight. The first evidence is light colored areas that are soft and may be slightly wrinkled. The areas are irregular in shape and may cover up to one-third of the fruit. Later on this area becomes sunken and papery in texture. Defoliation by diseases increases the prevalence of sunscald. Sunscald could be reduced if the diseases which cause defoliation of the plant are checked and vigorous growth is maintained.



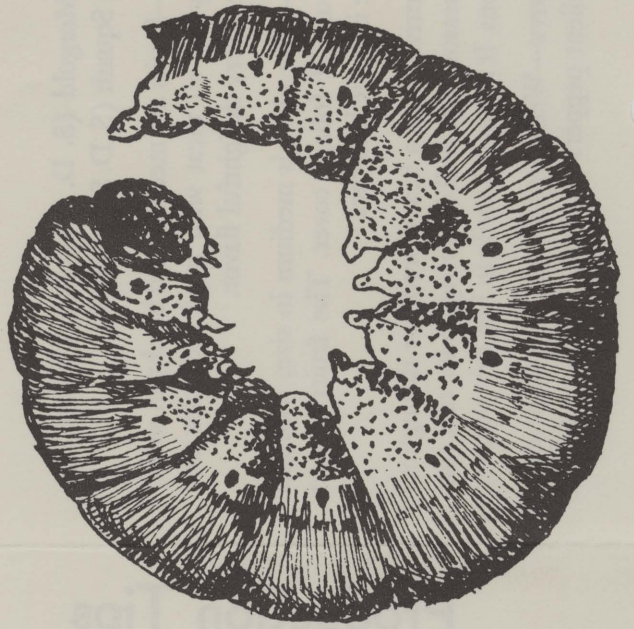
Sunscald

Aphids or plant lice are tiny (size of a pin-head), usually greenish, and soft bodied. They cluster on the underside of leaves or on the stem and suck juices from the plant. The leaves curl and plant growth is stunted. Severe damage may cause the plant to die. Spray with 25% wettable powder of malathion (4 level tablespoons per gallon of water) or dust with 4 to 5% malathion. Allow at least 3 days between the last application and harvest.

Cutworms have striped or spotted bodies of a dull gray, brown, or black. They are stout, soft bodied and smooth, and up to 1¼ inches long. They curl up tightly when disturbed. They generally do damage at night by cutting the plants at soil level. Apply 10% toxaphene or DDT dust, or spray with 50% wettable powder of toxaphene (3 level tablespoons per gallon of water). Allow 5 days between last application and harvest for both insecticides. Edible parts must be washed before use. Ready mix poison baits are also available. On a limited scale wax paper wrapped around each plant before transplanting has been found to be effective.



Aphid



Cutworm