

## Package of Practice for Chilli Cultivation

Chilli (*Capsicum annum*) is a major spice crop grown widely in India and is used in multiple forms — fresh green chilli, dried chilli, and powdered spice. It holds significant value for income generation, employment, and export potential, making it a highly profitable crop for Indian farmers.

### Ideal Soil for Chilli Farming

Chilli grows best in **well-drained loamy soil** rich in organic matter, with a **pH between 5.5 and 6.8**. Avoid waterlogged and clay-heavy soils to prevent root diseases.

### Best Time for Sowing Chilli (By Region)

Region	Sowing Time
Hilly Areas	March–April
Western Plains	January, February, May, June
Southern Plains	June, October–November, February
Northern Plains	June to August, November to January
Eastern Plains	December–January, March–April
Central India	May–June, November–December

*Note: Sowing time may vary slightly depending on local climate. Kharif season sowing generally gives better yield.*

### Seed Rate and Spacing

**Seed rate:** 250–300 grams per hectare

**Spacing:** Row-to-row – 60 cm, Plant-to-plant – 45 cm

### Nursery Preparation

Prepare 7 raised nursery beds, each **5 m long, 1 m wide, and 15 cm high** for 1 acre plantation.

Two days before sowing, treat beds with **Captan or Thiram (2 g/liter)** to prevent seedling diseases.

Sow seeds at a **depth of 0.5 cm** and irrigate regularly.

On the **10th and 20th day**, spray nursery with **Nuvan (1.5 ml/liter)** or **Rogor (2 ml/liter) + Dithane M-45 (2.5 ml/liter)**.

During cold weather, cover beds with a **polythene tunnel** to ensure better germination, and remove it after sprouting.

### Manure and Fertilizer Application

Apply **15–20 tons of well-decomposed FYM per hectare** at land preparation.

Use NPK as per the following schedule (kg/hectare):

Growth Stage	Nitrogen (N)	Phosphorus (P)	Potash (K)
At Transplanting	40	100	100
20 Days After Planting	40	—	—
Before Flowering	40	—	—
After First Harvest	40	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

### Weed Control

Apply **Pendimethalin (Stomp 30%) @ 3.25–4.25 liters/ha** 3–4 days after transplanting to suppress weed growth.

### Transplanting

Use 4–6 week-old healthy seedlings (with 4–5 leaves).

During monsoon, transplant on ridges for better drainage.

At transplanting, spray a solution of **Ammonium Sulphate + Potassium Nitrate (2:1 ratio)** using **1.36 kg mix in 270 liters of water** for better plant establishment.

### Irrigation

Water the field as per crop requirement, ensuring the soil remains moist but not waterlogged.

### Plant Protection Schedule

Days After Transplanting	Treatment
15 Days	Spray <b>2 g Dithane M-45 + 1.5 ml Nuvan</b> per liter of water

<b>Days After Transplanting</b>	<b>Treatment</b>
30 Days	Spray <b>1 g Derosal + 2 ml Rogor/Hostathion</b> per liter of water
45 Days	Spray <b>2 g Kavach + 1 ml Decis</b> per liter of water
60 Days	Spray <b>1.5 g Sulfex + 2 ml Spark</b> per liter of water
75 Days	Spray <b>1.5 ml Cymbush</b> per liter of water

**Important Tip:** To improve fruit size, yield, and color, prune side branches up to 7–9 cm height from ground level. Avoid pruning weak plants.

### **Special Tips for Better Yield**

To prevent flower drop, spray **Planofix (1 ml in 4 liters of water)** at flowering stage. Repeat after 3 weeks.

To control whiteflies naturally, plant **marigold flowers around the field** as trap crops.

### **Common Pests & Their Control**

#### **Aphids, thrips, jassids:**

Apply **Thimet (Phorate) @ 12.5 kg/ha** for 21-day protection.

Spray **Endosulfan, Metasystox (2 ml/liter)**

#### **Whitefly:**

Spray **Triazophos (Hostathion) @ 2–3 ml/liter**

#### **Fruit borer:**

Remove damaged fruits manually.

Spray **Quinalphos (2.5–3 ml/liter), Malathion (3 ml/liter), or Carbaryl (3 g/liter)**

#### **Ash weevil:**

Apply **Carbofuran 3G @ 20 kg/ha** 15 days after transplanting

#### **Mites:**

Spray **Dicofol (Kelthane) 2.7 ml** or **Sulphur 3 g/liter**

#### **Nematodes (Root knot worms):**

Apply **Carbofuran (Furadan) 3G – 20 kg/ha** or **Phorate 10G – 12.5 kg/ha**

### **Major Diseases**

**Blight:** Spray **Mancozeb (Dithane M-45) @ 2.4–3 g/liter**

**Fusarium wilt:** Practice **crop rotation every 4–5 years**

**Viral complex:** Manage vector insects (whiteflies, aphids) effectively

Use high-quality systemic and contact pesticides from reliable brands for controlling sucking pests and leaf-eating caterpillars.

**Disclaimer**

All the above recommendations are based on findings from agricultural research centers. Crop performance depends on soil health, weather, pest and disease pressure, and crop management practices. Results may vary accordingly. Farmers are advised to consult their **local agriculture department** for region-specific guidance and adopt practices suited to their climate and soil.