

Florida Bell Pepper Fast Facts

The Numbers

Value of annual crop

- 2008-09 season: \$198,553,000

Acres planted

- Average 18,685 acres per season (average from the past 10 years)
- Approximately 18,900 acres for the 2008-09 season

The Facts

Growing season

- Planted mid-July through mid-March
- Harvesting begins mid-October through mid-November
- Most active mid-November through April
- Ends in May through June

Harvest method

- Peppers are hand-harvested

Number of pickings

- Peppers are usually harvested at least twice
- Southern-grown pepper plants may be picked up to five times

Common pests and diseases

- Caterpillar-type pests, pepper weevil, broad mite, aphids, melon thrips, western flower thrips, leafminers, bacterial spot, phytophthora blight, anthracnose, sclerotinia stem rot, southern blight, wet



Sources:

2010 Florida Agriculture Statistical Directory

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PI040>