

Fast Facts: Bell peppers

Acres planted

- Average 18,685 acres per season (average from the past 10 years)
- Approximately 18,000 acres for the 2006-07 season

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

Value of annual crop

- 2006-07 season: \$183,148,000

Harvest method

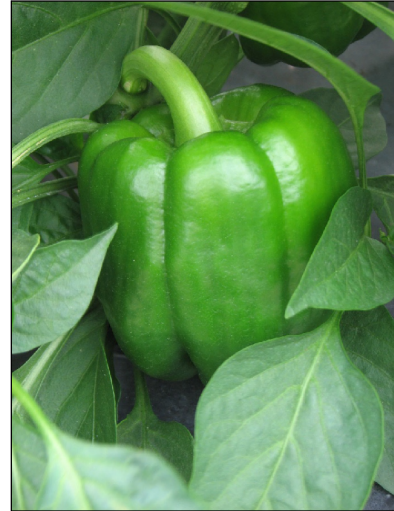
- Peppers are hand-harvested

Number of pickings

- Peppers are usually hand-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 rot
- Viruses



Sources:

2008 Florida Agriculture Statistical Directory
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PI040>