



International Union of Soil Sciences

Pablo and Claudia want to harvest
peppers at home.
(*Capricum annum* Group)

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The Pepper

(*Capricum annuum* Group)

Yesterday mom picked me up at the school gate, and we went for a walk outside our village. My village is called Cullera, and it is in Spain. It was a bit cool because it is in the middle of March.

I like to see how the farmers in my village prepare the fields for sowing, how they irrigate, how they fertilize the fields, and how they harvest.

I have a great time talking to them; they always have a thousand and one stories to tell me. Sometimes, I dream that I am already grown and that I am a farmer. I see myself doing the work in the fields and then coming home with a big basket full of vegetables and fruits.

When I tell Mom, she laughs, but I know she likes the idea of me being a farmer because she knows I enjoy the countryside. My name is Pablo, and you can see me in the next picture.



During our walk, we first talked to my grandfather Juan; he is the oldest farmer in the village. He is a strong man who takes care of his fields with a lot of love.

He told us that he had just sown seeds of spinach, beans, peas, and chard. His eyes lit up when he said that my sister Claudia always asked him: Grandpa, sow peas that Grandma cooks them very tasty.

In the next photo, you can see my sister Claudia.

Today she didn't come for a walk with us because she stayed to keep Grandma Company.



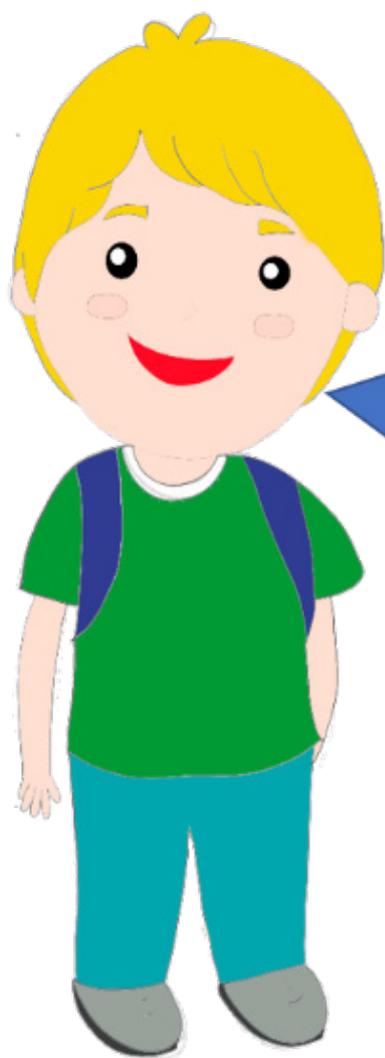
My grandmother makes very delicious peas. This year we will plant peas in pots.

After a while of walking, we met Julia. Julia is my friend Maria's mother.

She and her dad are also farmers, and sometimes, on Saturdays, they invite us to their house for lunch. Dad says that they always make good food because they use fresh vegetables from their fields.

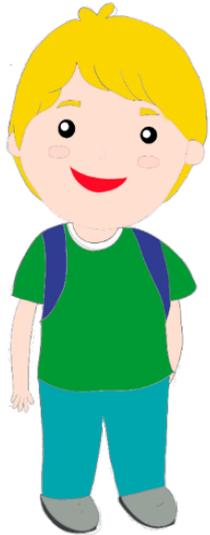
Julia was resting a little, so I started to ask her what she was growing.

They were peppers of many colors! There were red, yellow, orange, and green peppers. My surprise was huge when he told us to sit by the irrigation canal, and he would tell us everything he knew about the peppers.

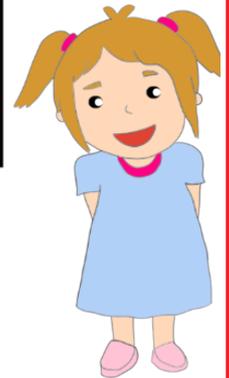


Here I have written down everything he told us. I hope it will help you to plant peppers, whether in the school garden, in a field, or pots. Oh! And enjoy eating peppers. They are so good, whether they are fresh in a salad, fried or baked.

The bell pepper belongs to the same family as the tomato. It likes high temperatures, and so it can be grown in warm temperate climate areas. Although it is a summer crop, it can be grown in autumn or winter in greenhouses.



- * Its botanical origin is South America.
- * Like oranges, they are high in vitamin C.
- * There are sweet peppers and others with a spicy flavor.
- * They have long roots (70 to 120 cm deep.)
- * Their plants have a height of between 0.5 and 1.5 m.
- * The flowers from which the fruit will come out are white.



And finally, Julia told us the following:



The bell pepper has four phases of development: first, it germinates, then it grows, then it has flowers, and finally, we have the fruit that is the bell pepper.



From sowing to harvesting, it can take between 4 and 9 months.



It likes to be warm. It can suffer if the temperature is cold (below 15°C and also above 35°C).



It needs water to grow, but it should not be suffocated with too much water.



It likes deep, nutrient-rich, aerated soils where water does not accumulate.

Well, it's time to say goodbye. We hope you enjoy the peppers.

Don't forget to tell the school and your friends what you have learned.





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