

# Evaluation of substrates on the production of ornamental *Capsicum*

F.C. Silva, W.S. Ribeiro, L.C. Costa, C.M.F. Pinto, F.L. Finger

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## Abstract

Growing peppers for ornamental purposes is a new trend for the Brazilian consumer market and abroad. Ornamental harmony of the potted plants, among other factors depends on the genotype and the substrate employed. Thus, this study aimed to determine the effect of two substrates on the production and quality of two genotypes of pepper ('Ornamental Pyramid' and 'BGH-1039'). A commercial substrate (Bioplant<sup>®</sup>) and undetermined local produced soil based substrate were evaluated. The seedlings were produced in the greenhouse and transplanted to 900 ml pots. When the plants had at least 30% of the fully ripened fruit, i.e., ideal for marketing, the following characteristics were evaluated: precocity, plant height, canopy diameter, number of leaves and number of fruits per plant. No difference was observed in precocity between plants grown in substrate Bioplant<sup>®</sup> or local soil substrate. For both, 'Ornamental Pyramid' and 'BGH-1039', the ideal stage for marketing was reached at 60 days after transplanting. Plants of both genotypes grown in the substrate Bioplant<sup>®</sup> showed significantly higher plant height, canopy diameter, number of leaves and number of fruits per plant. The substrate Bioplant<sup>®</sup> provided plants better overall development.