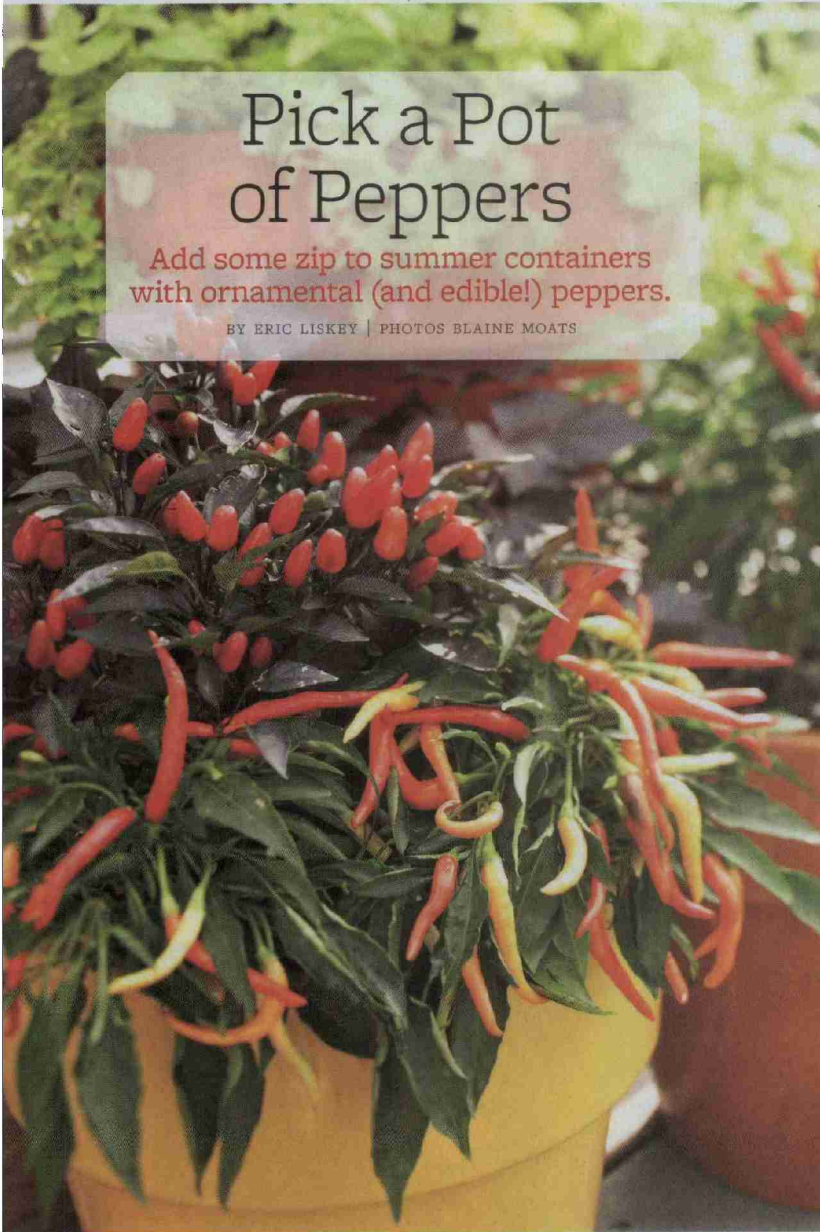


garden | edibles

Pick a Pot of Peppers

Add some zip to summer containers with ornamental (and edible!) peppers.

BY ERIC LISKEY | PHOTOS BLAINE MOATS



Peppers grow well in containers, but garden varieties often aren't very attractive. Instead, try ornamental varieties—they're more compact and have showy fruit, making them perfect for spicing up summer pots. Just give them full sun, regular water, and occasional fertilizer.

All ornamental peppers are edible. (Although if you plan to eat them, be sure to grow them from seed. Store-bought ornamentals may have been treated with chemicals not suitable for food plants.) The fruit might be small, but you can use it fresh to flavor dishes or add color to jars of pickled peppers. Also dry some for later use as a spice. ■

'Medusa' and 'Explosive Ember' make a nice grouping, left. 'Black Pearl', below, with purple leaves, contrasts with lighter plants.



Peppers to try

Trailers for baskets Basket of Fire, Cheyenne
Large peppers Apache, Redskin, Sweet Heat
Extra-showy fruit Bolivian Rainbow, Chilly Chili

Look for ornamental peppers at garden centers, or order seed by mail. Try rareseeds.com, tomatogrowers.com, and reimarseeds.com for wide selections.

