LONG-SEASON HOT PEPPERS

LIGHT

Give Red Habanero and Tabasco the warmest, sunniest sheltered location available. A bright patio container can help retain warmth. Harden plants gradually and keep them protected until nights are reliably mild.

WATER

Keep the root zone evenly moist during flowering and fruit development. Containers may dry quickly in warm weather. Water thoroughly and drain; neither intentional wilting nor a water-filled saucer improves the crop.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use a generous draining container or fertile garden bed. Set transplants at their original depth after frost danger and cold soil have passed. Follow each variety tag for mature size and support heavy branches.

FEEDING

Apply a labeled vegetable fertilizer without overfeeding. Heavy nitrogen can delay flowers and ripening, an important concern in Maine. Continue checking moisture before treating fruit disorders as nutrient deficiencies.

SEASONAL CARE

These peppers can need a longer warm season than many common garden peppers. Expect slower coloring in cool autumn weather; do not promise a fully ripe crop from late planting. Harvest usable fruit before frost. A bright, warm protected space can extend the season.

HELPFUL TIPS

Use gloves for harvest and preparation, keep hands away from eyes, and clean tools afterward. Label the cultivar and harvest stage carefully. Do not assume all green fruit will fully color after picking; ripe flavor and heat depend on variety and growing conditions.