

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910424574503321
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Titolo	Peperoncini / / Marina Clauser, Andrea Grigioni, Mario Landi
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Firenze : , : Firenze University Press, , 2010
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (80 pages) : illustrations (colour); digital, PDF file(s)
Lingua di pubblicazione	Italiano
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Sommario/riassunto	The chili pepper is a spice and medicinal remedy used since ancient times by the American peoples who were the first to undertake the domestication of 5 species belonging to the genus Capsicum (Solanaceae): <i>Capsicum</i> (Solanaceae): Capsicum annuum, C. baccatum, C. chinense, C. frutescens e C. pubescens</i>. After the sixteenth century the chili pepper became similarly popular in other continents and today the five species number many reference pod-types and over 3,000 varieties. The book describes their uses in the different spheres of cuisine (aromatic, spicy and colourful), medicine (antioxidant and digestive for internal use, rubefacient and anti-rheumatic for external use) and ornamentation (cut branches, floral compositions, border plants, splashes of colour).