



Johnson's Garden Talk

Lawn and garden information for the friends and customers of Johnson's Garden Centers

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Hatch via Roswell

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Kansas Certified Nursery Professional

Chile season is upon us again. The roasting of fresh green chile from Hatch, New Mexico, the chile capitol of the world, is truly unique. The roasting process does not really cook the green chile, but makes the pepper shed its outer skin and ready to add to almost any dish. These peppers range from mild to extra hot. Although the hotter types are great, I have learned to really love the milder ones just as well.

Why Hatch New Mexico? The growing conditions in the lower Rio Grande River Valley provide ideal conditions for growing chile peppers. The long season enables the plant to produce an abundance of flavorful peppers.

We make several trips to southern New Mexico every fall to pick up peppers. There are a couple of routes that we take getting to Hatch. I think that my favorite way is to drive out on Highway 40 to Albuquerque. This lets us visit "beautiful" western Oklahoma and Texas on our way out.

The return trip is truly a scenic route. We leave Hatch in the afternoon and drive across the eastern New Mexico desert through Roswell, always on the lookout for alien life. We continue on through the panhandle of Texas and Oklahoma into Kansas during the middle of night. It is quite a site to see the sunrise on the Kansas landscape.

It's quite a long trip, but worth it to see the sites, and to bring back the best green chile possible. ■