

HOW TO GROW - PEAS

Fun fact- fully ripe peas are yellowish and the ones we normally eat are still immature, this became fashionable in 17-18,000.

19 May, 2020

The basic information-



- Annual edible
- Sowing-successive
sowings
- Temperature-cool
season crop grows best
below 18 celsius
- Sun-ideally full sun,
can grow in part
shade.

Picture- Pea 'Douce provence' sown in february now may and starting to pod.

SUCCESSIONAL SOWINGS, CULTIVARS AND WHERE TO

GROW. Peas are cool season crops, for this reason they should be kept away from south facing areas that are extremely sunny, hot and dry. They love sunny locations but just make sure to regularly water them especially when in flower and its not very hot- remember they don't like it above 18.

Depending on the variety you have then sowings can be made from February, or you will have to wait till march-april. Varieties such as 'Douce provence' can be from February but sugar snap peas will have to be from March-April.

Did you know- peas that can be overwintered or sown very early, like 'Douce provence' can be grown so because the seed has a smooth non-wrinkled dry coat - (called a round coat) where ones like sugar snap have wrinkled skin.

Successive sowings- this means gradually sowing them every 2-4 weeks starting from february or march to may or june. You can do this with a lot of vegetables as it will allow an almost continuous crop season.

HOW TO SOW PEAS

If you're sowing them in large pots(make sure its dwarf-semi dwarf varieties)- like the picture above(that's a 40l pot) then make sure it's been top dressed with organic matter or had fish, blood and bone added to the soil then sow them in drills 5cm deep and 5 cm apart from each other. They will germinate in 7-14 days



Direct sowing in ground, make sure it's not a very wet and cold area your sowing them in as this will increase the chance of rotting- if your soil is heavy and wet then you have two options-

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- *Lay fleece over the top a few weeks in advance to sowing to warm*
 - *starting them off indoors from late january in root trainers or a toilet roll tube, a cloche/ fleece is still recommended to protect the emerging shoots from frost.*

GROWING UNDER COVER-

Early spring and late autumn sowings can be grown to maturity under cloches.

PEA SUPPORTS AND PROTECTION

For newly emerged seedlings- protect them with small twigs so no birds can get to them to disturb them. As they mature and tendrils start to form then erect a climbing frame-

- For peas sown in pots, these should be dwarf or semi-dwarf varieties that mostly support themselves but putting 4 -5 canes around the outside and tying twine around it to hold them especially during windy spells.*
- If very tall prolific varieties like 'Mangout' then erecting a growing structure about 2m tall as a tent shape like this-*
- Or a wigwam.*

Peas will also need netting over them- this protects them from birds like pigeons.