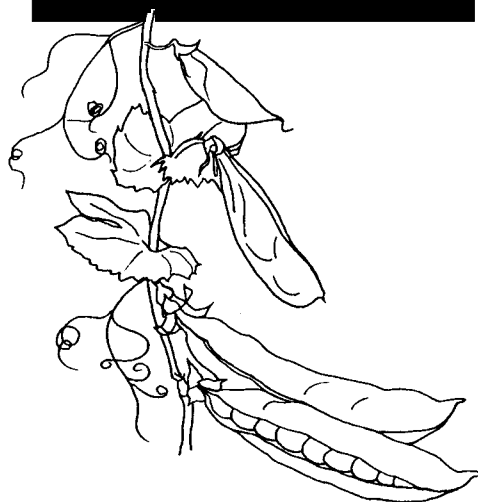


CULTURE AND VARIETIES FOR THE HOME GARDENER



Growing Peas

Variety	Days to maturity	Disease resistance	Suggested use	Comments
Standard (English) type				
Citadel	58	BLRV, F	C, F, G	Very early, "baby" peas
Maestro	61	F, PEV, PM, BYMV	F, G	Large pods, early
Knight	62	CW, F, PEV, PM	C, F, G	Large pods, early
Little Marvel	63	—	F, G	Dwarf vines, high-yielding
Frosty	64	F	F, G	Good for freezing
Lincoln	66	CW	F, G	Standard variety for home gardens
Mr. Big	66	F, PM	F, G	Trellis type, 5" puffy pods, easy harvest, AAS
Wando	68	F	F, G	Best pea for late planting
Green Arrow	70	CW, F	F, G	Large pods, high yields
Edible pod/flat (snow pea type)				
Dwarf Gray Sugar	65	—	F, G	Red blossoms, stems also edible
Mammoth Melting Sugar	68	CW	F, G	Broad, flat pods, needs trellis
Oregon Sugar Pod II	68	CW, PEV, PM	F, G	Most disease resistant, double clusters of peas
Sugar Snow	68	—	F, G	Stringless, largest, very sweet
Edible pod/round (snap type)				
Cascadia	58	PEV, PM	F, G	Round, snap, bush type
Sugar Ann	58	CW, F	F, G	Round, snap, bush type, AAS
Sugar Sprint	62	PEV, PM	F, G	Stringless, bush type
Super Snappy	65	PM	F, G	Largest pods with 8–10 peas/pod
Super Sugar Snap	66	BLRV, PM	F, G	Trellis type, more disease resistant than Sugar Snap
Sugar Lace	68	BLRV, PM	F, G	Semi-leafless type, self supporting in double rows, stringless pods

CODES

Disease resistance: **BLRV** = Bean Leaf Roll Virus, **BYMV** = Bean Yellow Mosaic Virus, **CW** = Common Wilt, **PEV** = Pea Enation Virus, **PM** = Powdery Mildew resistance or tolerance, **F** = Fusarium resistant or tolerant

Suggested use: **C** = canning; **F** = freezing; **G** = for use fresh from the garden

Comments: **AAS** = All-America Selection

CULTURAL PRACTICES

Soil Fertility and pH

Add fertilizer and lime to your garden as directed by soil test results. (Kits can be purchased from county extension offices.) If the soil is not tested, apply 1 to 2 inches of compost, work into soil, then add 1 1/2 lb of 5–10–5 (or equivalent) fertilizer per 100 sq ft. It is desirable to band the fertilizer at 2 inches to the side and 3 inches below the seed. You can also get satisfactory results by broadcasting and working the fertilizer and compost into the soil before seeding. Do not apply excessive nitrogen.

Planting Dates

Peas may be planted anytime in April in central Pennsylvania. Plant two weeks earlier in warmer regions of the state and

ten days later in cooler regions. If you wish to try a later planting, sow Wando because it will withstand warm weather better than other varieties.

Depth of Seeding

All pea types should be planted 1 to 1 1/2 inches deep.

Spacing

Space rows 3 ft apart. To obtain maximum yields from limited space, plant in double rows 6 to 8 inches apart. Seeds should be spaced 2 to 3 inches apart in the row.

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

Planting

Although a cool-season crop, peas germinate well (but slowly) at soil temperatures below 50°F. Plants can tolerate moderate

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freezes. Peas are injured by poor soil drainage at any time during growth.

Staking

Low-growing, dwarf varieties or semi-leafless types like Sugar Lace do not need support, especially if grown in double rows. Tall-growing varieties such as Super Sugar Snap or Mammoth Melting Sugar must be supported. Chicken wire, a trellis of string, or a row of twigs are some common supports.

HARVESTING

Pick standard green (English) pea types while they are firm but still succulent. Pick flat-type edible podded peas (snow peas) before seed swellings become too evident. The newer, round, crisp, fleshy “snap” types should be picked when round and firm, but still succulent. Snap and remove strings from both ends, but do not shell. Pea pods are firmly attached to their vine, so hold the vine with one hand and pull the pod with the other; otherwise, plants may be injured and yields reduced.

WEED CONTROL

Dense weeds in the garden not only rob vegetable crops of moisture, light, and nutrients but can also harbor insects and create an ideal environment for the development of many diseases. Eliminate young weed seedlings with shallow hoeing or cultivating. Never let weeds become too big. Always pull or mow weeds around your garden area before they form seeds. Place mulch such as straw around plants and between rows to reduce weeds and conserve moisture. Perennial weeds near and in gardens provide a site for diseases (viruses and mycoplasmas) to overwinter and should be removed whenever possible.

To help keep weeds and weed seeds out of the garden during fall and winter, sow a cover crop in late summer or fall (e.g., annual ryegrass or spring oats mixed with hairy vetch). Turn the cover crop under about one month before planting in spring.

As a rule, avoid using herbicides for weed control in the home garden because of several potential problems. First, no one available herbicide can be used safely on all kinds of vegetables growing in the garden. Second, herbicides are difficult to apply at proper rates with hand sprayers in small areas. In most cases, some areas receive too little herbicide for effective weed control and other areas may receive such heavy rates that the crop is damaged or killed. Finally, you risk damaging or killing your plants from spray drift.

DISEASES AND INSECTS

Pest control programs for home garden vegetables can involve both cultural and chemical control measures. Nonchemical methods should be used in order to prevent plant injury. Resistant varieties, proper cultural practices, and sanitation are key in an effective pest control program.

Diseases or insects may cause a serious reduction in plant vigor, quality, and productivity. The success or failure of a fungicide or an insecticide is related to correctly identifying the pest problem, selecting the correct pesticide, the pesticide dosage applied, the application method used, weather conditions, and correct timing.

Always follow the directions on the container package when mixing and applying pesticides. Never increase the amount of pesticide or decrease the amount of water you mix with the pesticide.

DISEASE IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL

Root Rots and Wilts

Symptoms: Roots rot, leaves turn yellow, and plants wilt and die.

Control: Grow peas in a well-drained area where peas have not been grown for five years. Fertilize adequately; follow soil test recommendations. Grow varieties resistant to common wilt and Fusarium (CW, F), as listed in the variety table.

Viruses

Symptoms: Affected plants may have mottled leaves, distorted pods, and dead stems.

Control: When available, grow virus-resistant varieties (BLRV, BYMV, PEV) listed in the variety table. Also be sure to control aphids since they can spread viruses (see aphid control section).

INSECT IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL

Pea Aphids

Aphids are green, soft-bodied, pear-shaped, slow-moving insects up to 1/8 inch long. Colonies consist of winged and wingless adults and immature nymphs of various sizes. They usually congregate on the upper plant parts, on the undersides of leaves, inside immature folded leaves, on flowers, and on pods. As infestations build, aphids appear all along the stems and especially on the undersides of leaves. Plants become sticky from aphids' secretions, called honeydew.

Damage occurs when aphids insert their beaks into plants and suck out plant juices.

This results in discolored foliage, stunted growth, curled leaves, and damage to the buds. Aphids can also spread virus diseases to plants they feed on.

Control: Small infestations can sometimes be controlled by washing the aphids from plants with a stream of water. Naturally occurring parasitoids and predators of aphids are fairly common. To control heavy infestations, use insecticidal soap or an insecticide labeled to control aphids in vegetables.

Root Maggots

Maggots are small (1/4 inch), legless, and white. They feed on seeds and stems, preventing young plants from emerging. If plants do emerge, they fail to grow normally.

Control: Root maggot problems are worse in cool, wet soils high in organic matter. If you have problems with this insect, you may need to plant after the soil is warm to avoid damage. Replant if seedlings do not emerge within 7 to 10 days.

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