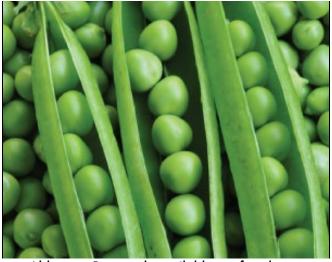
URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing peas

Peas are a fun plant to grow with different varietals allowing gardeners to eat the whole pod or split the shell open to find bursting peas inside. Depending on the species, peas can be grown in a pot or in a garden, which makes the plant a good option for all greenthumbs. Peas are a cool-weather vegetable, meaning they flourish in the spring and fall months. The two main different types of peas are shelling peas and edible-podded peas. Shelling peas are grown for the peas hidden inside the pod. Once shelled, discard the pod. Edible-podded peas can be eaten whole, pod and all.



Alderman Pea seeds available at ufseeds.com

To plant:

Seeds can be sown outdoors four to six weeks before the last spring frost. Prior to sowing, add wood ashes to the area for fertilization. Soak seeds overnight and plant them an inch deep and two inches apart. If you are planting in an area with wet soil, it is encouraged to use raised beds as the seeds may rot in soil that isn't well-drained.

Some species of peas may grow in a vining pattern. If you are planting one of these species, establish a trellis or plant cage at the time of planting. If desired, sprinkle rhizobium bacteria powder on the seeds prior to planting, as peas are legumes that require the bacteria to grow well. For fall crop, add more compost prior to planting to allow for a cooler soil during the warm end of summer. Plant them when the air temperature is 75 degrees or cooler on average.

To grow:

Too much fertilization may harm peas, as they are vulnerable to nitrogen.

Compost may help, though pea plants don't need much fertilizer. Water the plant sparingly and don't hoe the area as this may damage roots. Weed the plants by hand. Adding mulch, grass clippings or other materials will prevent weeds from growing, but ensure the mulch doesn't touch the pea plant.

To harvest:

Peas can typically be harvested between 12 and 15 weeks after planting. Rotate pea crop every other year. Continuously pick the pods to encourage more growth. When picking, secure the vine with one hand while using the other hand to pinch the peas off the vine. Peas are ready for harvest when the individual peas are barely larger than the planted seeds.

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Where to buy pea seeds: Urban Farmer offers many species of pea seeds, from sugar sprint to spring peas. To buy pea seeds, check out our website at ufseeds.com!



Sugar Sprint Pea seeds available at ufseeds.com





