

Cultural Details: **Sweet Pea**

A good range of this favourite flower is listed in the Moles Seeds catalogue. Winter Elegance is suitable for short day production, cutting around a month before other varieties. Mammoth is suited to main season glasshouse production. Galaxy will flower about 2 weeks before the standard Spencer mixture. Spencer varieties are the latest to flower, but have the largest flowers. We also list a number of semi-dwarf, self-supporting types for the garden and for containers.

Sow Sweet Peas from December to May. Cover the seeds and keep moist. Optimum germination temperature is 17-20°C, growing on at 8-10°C. Alternatively, for earlier flowering plants with stronger root systems, sow September/October, planting out February onwards. Winter Elegance can be sown in late October, for a first cut in February, when grown in a glasshouse at around 15°C throughout production.

Some varieties/colours develop a hard seed coat and germination can sometimes be assisted either by soaking the seed in tepid water for 12 hours, or 'nicking' the surface of the seed.

Space plants at 8-10cm within and 200cm between rows. Time from sowing to cutting is approximately 8-12 weeks, depending on sowing date.

For pot sales, young plants are generally pinched out when 10cm high. For cut flower production, plants are usually topped at approximately 2 metres, the first cut of flowers taken, and a new leading shoot selected for further growth. A dose of liquid fertilizer can result in longer stems.

Fragrance varies with variety and colour. Pinks and lilacs are generally the most scented.

Information provided for guidance only, as cultural practices and climatic circumstances vary.