

Cultural Details: Sweet Pea Winter Elegance

Sweet Pea Winter Elegance is a large flowered winter flowering Sweet Pea, for greenhouse production under short day conditions. August sowings will result in Christmas flowering. Later sowings will result in flowering from early February onwards.

Sowing

Sow the seed direct into the prepared soil of the glasshouse, sowing two seeds per hole approximately 1cm (1/2") deep, 20cm (8") apart. After the seeds have germinated, thin to one plant per 20cm (8").

Growing-on

The plants will need wires or some form of support to grow up. Germinate and grow on with a glasshouse temperature of approximately 13°C. When the plants are established any side shoots that are produced should be removed. This will promote flower size and stem length in the remaining plant. The plants should begin to flower when they are 2metres (5-6 feet), at which stage a high nitrogen feed may be advantageous. When the first flush of flowers has been harvested the plants can be lowered down the supports, looped round and tied up to the support again, with the growing point facing up the support. This can be grown up the supports again to produce a second flush of flowers.

Pest and Disease

The major problem that will be encountered when growing this crop will be powdery and downy mildew, both of which can be partially avoided by good ventilation. Should any infection occur the application of an appropriate fungicide is recommended. Another problem to monitor is mice eating the seed prior to germination.

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