

MOLES SEEDS

Peas

Cultural Leaflet: ZZ606

Peas are split into three main types, shelled peas, mange tout and sugar snap. We offer a range of shelled peas from first earlies, second earlies and main crops, and a selection of mange tout and sugar snap seed.

Plant Sales

Sow March onwards direct into cell packs for sales April onwards.

Programming the Crop

For spring sowings it can take 12-16 weeks from sowing to harvest and for winter sowings (variety Douce Provence) up to 32 weeks.

Propagation and Growing-on

Peas like to be grown on a soil with good structure and plenty of organic matter, that is neutral to alkaline in pH. Avoid adding too much nitrogen to the soil as peas naturally take in nitrogen from the air and store it in nodules on their roots.

The best way to have a long harvest of peas is to sow successively from March onwards. The first earlies will take 12 weeks to mature, second 14 weeks and main crop varieties 16 weeks.

Sow seeds 2.5cm deep 5cm apart into to soils of at least 5°C. For early sowings in February pre-warm the soil using cloches. For successive plants sow the next batch of seed as the previous set reaches 5cm in height.

For successful autumn and winter crops, peas are best raised in troughs and pots under cloches, as they do not like cold and heavy soils.

Mange tout and sugar snap types should be treated in the same way as main crop shelled types.

Pea plants will need staking to help support them, with regular watering at flowering time as the pods begin to swell to increase the crop. Watering too much before these times will promote leaf growth and not increase pea crop.

Modern developments in peas have lead to some semi-leafless types where tendrils replace the normal foliage. These tendrils allow the plant to be self supporting and are much less vulnerable to bird damaged.

Harvesting

Shelling peas are ready for harvest when the pods are well filled but still have air pockets between the peas. Picking often and early will encourage more pods to develop.

Mange tout and sugar snap types should be picked when the pod reaches about 3 inches in length just as the peas within the pod are beginning to develop.

Pest and Disease

Check variety descriptions for information on disease resistance.

- Seed Beetle
- Pea Aphid
- Pea and Bean Weevil
- Pea Thrips
- Pea Moth
- Foot & Root Rot
- Powdery Mildew
- Fusarium Wilt
- Leaf and Pod Spot
- Marsh Spot

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

(12/15)

