

# Peas (Sweet)



**Sun:** Plant in full sun (6 to 8 hours). Space 2 inches apart within rows or 1 to 2 plants per 5- to 7-gallon container. Plant in February for early spring harvest.

**Soil:** Amend with organic matter to create a well-drained soil. Avoid planting in unamended sandy or heavy clay soils. If the soil test shows pH is below 6.2, apply lime in October or November as recommended.

For proper drainage in a container garden, use potting mix and ensure containers have drainage holes. Alternatively, consider using self-watering containers.

**Water:** Keep soil consistently moist but not saturated. Apply 1 to 2 inches of water each week. Avoid wetting leaves to prevent fungal disease. Mulch helps retain moisture.

**Plant:** Direct sow 2 inches deep near a trellis or stake. Transplants are not recommended.

**Fertilize:** In the absence of a soil test, apply an all-purpose fertilizer (8-8-8 or 10-10-10) at planting. Use two-thirds of the recommended rate of nitrogen; too much nitrogen will stop flower and pod production.

**Insects/Diseases/Weeds:** Scout plants frequently for insect/disease damage. Use insecticidal soap (for soft-bodied insects) or Bt dust or spray (for caterpillars, or worms). Spray fungicide regularly to suppress common fungal diseases. Always follow label instructions. Mulch inhibits weeds and diseases.

**Harvest:** Harvest at 60 to 70 days, when pods are fully developed but still bright green. Harvest time varies depending on the variety.

**Other:** Sweet peas can be eaten in pods or shelled. Pick early when still tender. Maintain uniform soil moisture during bloom and pod development.

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