

# Snow Pea

*Pisum sativum*



## General Information

- Edible
- Sun Exposure: Partial shade
- Water needs: Moderate
- Temperature: Soil temperatures should be at least 40 °F.
- When to harvest: Harvest around 50-70 days after planting. With snow peas, you will want to harvest before the pods fully mature. The pods should be flimsy, reaching about 3-4 inches in length with small seeds that have not begun swelling--at this point the peas are ready for harvest. When the plant is matured, harvest every 3-4 days or when peas are ready.
- Harvest season: Early spring to summer

## Planting Guide

- Planting Season: You can plant seeds 4-6 weeks before the last frost date. You can look up the last frost date online (Usually around April 1st).
- Location: Plant in a place with partial shade and well draining soil. Peas do best with only around 4-6 hours of sunlight per day.
- Compost: Mix a potassium and phosphorus rich fertilizer into the soil at the planting site.
- Spacing: Plant peas at least 1 inch apart from each other, with rows between 18-24 inches apart.
- How to plant: Dig holes 1-2 inches deep, the correct amount of space apart. Apply fertilizer to the holes, then add 2 seeds to each hole before covering gently with soil. Water lightly after planting, just enough for the soil to turn dark.

## Care Guide

- Irrigation: Water to the peas enough to keep the soil 2 inches deep moist. During dry spells, it is a good idea to stick your finger into the soil 2 inches. If it is dry, water the plants more.
- Support: A trellis erected around the pea plant will help support it and keep it from falling over.
- Supplemental Fertilizer: You can add additional fertilizer after harvesting the first crop to promote further fruiting.
- Pests: Most common pests like aphids and pea weevils can be combated with a pesticidal soap spray. More eco-friendly measures like ladybugs can be employed to combat the smaller pests like aphids.
- Diseases: Several diseases that plague the pea plant can be avoided by rotating the planting of plants from the same family. This can help prevent the spread of diseases like ascochyta blight, which is a fungal infection. Another common issue is root rot. This happens when the soil is too moist, so be sure not to overwater your peas. Alternatively, you can look for disease resistant plant varieties.