

Garden Peas

Introduction

Garden peas, also known as English peas or sweet peas, are not just good to eat but also fun to grow. Their vibrant green pods, bursting with sweet and tender peas, add freshness and flavor to any dish. Growing garden peas is a rewarding experience, whether you're a seasoned gardener or a novice enthusiast.

Variety Selection

The first step in growing garden peas is selecting the right variety. There are three main types of garden peas: shelling peas, snow peas, and snap peas. Shelling peas are the traditional variety, where the peas are eaten fresh after shelling. Snow peas are harvested when the peas inside the pods are still very small, and the pods are flat and edible. Snap peas, also known as sugar snap peas, have edible pods and full-size peas inside. Choose a variety that suits your preference and growing conditions.

Site Selection and Soil Preparation

Garden peas thrive in cool weather, so it's best to plant them in early spring or late summer for a fall harvest. Select a site that receives full sun or partial shade and has well-drained soil with good fertility. Before planting, prepare the soil by loosening it with a garden fork or tiller and incorporating organic matter, such as compost or aged manure, to improve soil structure and fertility.

Planting

Plant garden peas directly in the garden bed as soon as the soil can be worked in early spring. Sow the seeds 1 inch deep and 2-3 inches apart in rows spaced 18-24 inches apart. If you're planting in late summer for a fall harvest, you can sow the seeds a bit deeper to help them germinate in warmer soil. Provide support for the pea plants, such as a trellis or stakes, to keep them upright as they grow.

	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Start Seeds								
Transplant								
Harvest								

Watering

Keep the soil consistently moist but not waterlogged, especially during germination and flowering. Water deeply once or twice a week, depending on weather conditions, to encourage strong root development and pod formation. Use drip irrigation to conserve water and provide consistent moisture.



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Mulching

Mulch around the plants to conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and keep the soil cool.

Pests

Monitor the plants for pests such as aphids or pea moths and take appropriate measures, such as handpicking or using organic insecticides, to control them.

Harvesting

Garden peas are ready for harvest 60-70 days after planting, depending on the variety. Harvest shelling peas when the pods are plump and firm but still bright green. Snow peas should be harvested when the pods are flat and the peas inside are barely developed. Snap peas are best harvested when the pods are plump, and the peas inside have filled out but are still tender. Use scissors or pruners to harvest the pods, being careful not to damage the plants.



Conclusion

By selecting the right variety, preparing the soil properly, and providing adequate care, you can cultivate a bountiful harvest of sweet and tender peas in your own backyard.

Additional Resources

Scan the QR code for more information.



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