

— May —

Garden Guide

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- Feature Plant - Peas

One of our all-time favourite family kitchen job is shelling peas. The fighting begins over who gets to pick the peas and ends with who gets the job of snapping the pods open and popping the little green gems into the bowl. Peas are so easy to grow and so tasty!

Choose a Variety: Snap peas are peas that are grown for their pods and are called delicious names like 'Sugarpod' and 'Sugarsnap'. Garden peas are shelling peas and are grown for what is inside the pod. 'Greenfeast' is my personal favourite, but 'Bounty' and 'Telephone' are also great in the home garden. Peas are either climbers or dwarf compact type. If you aren't keen on putting up trellises and are working in a smaller garden, a dwarf variety is a good space-saver.

Where to Plant: A sunny, open frost free position in the garden is great. If you have soil that has been cultivated and some composted manure mixed in a few weeks before planting, all the better!

Sow seeds into damp soil at least 10cm apart. Water after a couple days but be careful not to overwater and cause the seeds or new shoots to rot. The best time to plant out your peas is during the cooler months as this is when they grow best. Frost can damage the plants, so in colder areas, planting can be done during Spring.

Trellises: Climbing peas will need a trellis to support them as they can reach around 2m high. Wire panels or a tee pee work well as air can move freely around the plants. Most other types of peas including the dwarf varieties will need some form of support.

Watering: Early morning watering is the best time as this allows the plants to dry out during the day, making them less susceptible to disease. It is best not to wet the leaves as this encourages mildew.

Fertilising: Peas will respond well to Blood & Bone Plus pellets every 4-6 weeks while they are growing. Regular application of a seaweed concentrate every 2-3 weeks is also recommended for overall plant health and to help protect against pest and disease. Neptune Liquid Seaweed can be applied to the soil and foliage.

Mildew: Mildew is the most common problem to affect peas. Watering in the morning and only at the base of the plants can minimise this fungal disease.

Harvesting: Generally, peas are ready to be harvested at around 11-14 weeks. Regular picking helps to encourage repeat flowering, so the more you pick, the better your yield!



What to Plant

— NOW —

Flowers:

Cool Climate/Temperate Climate

Alyssum, aurora daisy, cineraria, cornflower, cyclamen, English daisy, French marigold, Iceland poppy, lobelia, lupin, pansy, polyanthus, primula, snapdragon, stock, strawflower, sweet pea and viola.

Sub-Tropical Climate

Ageratum, alyssum, candytuft, carnation, cineraria, coreopsis, cornflower, cyclamen, delphinium, dianthus, everlasting daisy, Iceland poppy, impatiens, marigolds, sweet pea and viola.

Tropical Climate

Ageratum, aster, balsam, carnation, celosia, chrysanthemum, cockscomb, coleus, cosmos, dahlia, dianthus, everlasting daisy, gaillardia, gazania, geranium, gerbera, impatiens, kangaroo paw, African marigold, French marigold, nasturtium, petunia, portulaca, rudbeckia, salvia, snapdragon, sunflower, torenia, verbena, wallflower and zinnia.

"In all things of nature there is something of the marvellous"

Aristotle

Herbs & Vegetables:

Cool Climate/Temperate Climate

Chives, coriander, garlic, lemongrass, marjoram, mint, oregano, parsley, rosemary, shallots, tarragon and thyme. broad bean, beetroot, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, Chinese broccoli, Chinese cabbage, English spinach, leek, lettuce, onion, parsnip, potatoes, silver beet, swede and turnip.

Sub-Tropical Climate

Chervil, chicory, coriander, fennel, garlic bulbs, lavender, marjoram, oregano, parsley, rocket, sage, sorrel, rosemary, thyme, winter tarragon, yarrow. Plant broad beans, broccoli, lettuce, onion, peas, radish, shallots, spinach, spring onion and turnip.

Tropical Climate

Beans, beetroot, broccoli, cabbage, capsicum, carrot, cauliflower, celery, Chinese cabbage, cucumber, eggplant, lettuce, melons, mustard, okra, onion, parsnip, potato, pumpkin, radish, rosella, silver beet, squash, sweet corn, sweet potato, tomato and zucchini. basil, coriander, garlic, garlic chives, marjoram, oregano, parsley, thyme and winter tarragon.

Did you Know?

Rosemary can be used to make tea that will wake you up and keep you alert. It's the herbal alternative to coffee or caffeinated energy drinks

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A complete formula for an abundance of delicious healthy fruit!

High Yields developed with sulphate of potash and added trace elements

Potassium for optimum fruit development

Slow release Phosphorus to carry the crop right through to harvest



N 7.4% P 3.1% K 6.9%





Tasks in the Garden

— NOW —

-  **Fertilising:** A good feed of Super Growth or Super Booster will benefit your gardenias, azaleas, magnolias, camellias and rhododendrons at this time.
-  **Planting:** Sweet peas and bulbs can be planted now. Garlic and onions planted now will be ready to harvest in late Spring.
-  **Supercal for Heavy Clay Soils:** If you have problem spots in the garden with heavy, compacted clay soil, spray some Super Cal Liquid Clay Breaker over the soil to break up the clay and improve drainage and soil structure.
-  **Pruning:** Going through the garden and removing spent flowers and giving the shrubs a prune back will encourage new growth.
-  **Citrus:** Add some mulch around your citrus trees to help them keep in moisture and aid the growing crop. Fertilise with Citrus & Fruit fertiliser.
-  **Roses:** It is good timing to prepare beds for planting out bare-root roses. Dig in a product like Super Growth which is rich in organic matter.
-  **Green Manures:** Grow a green manure crop like oats, millet or field peas to improve the soil in your vege patch.
-  **Feed Indoor Plants:** Give your indoor plants a feed of Neptune Seaweed and a sprinkling of Super Growth pellets to keep them looking lush. Cut back on watering now the weather is cooling off.
-  **Mulch:** Add some mulch on vege gardens, ornamentals to keep the weeds down. Add some fertiliser under the mulch to release slowly as the mulch breaks down.
-  **Seaweed:** To aid plant health this time of year, water every 3 weeks with Neptune Seaweed Liquid to build up pest and disease resistance.

Autumn Fertilising

Neptune Seaweed Concentrate on vegetables & herbs, fruit trees & flowering plants to keep them healthy.

Lawn & Garden Booster over the lawn to revive it after the summer heat.

Super Phoska Citrus & Fruit or Super Growth for fruit trees.

Natives may need a boost with Super Booster for healthy new growth.

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