



I eat my peas with honey,
I've done it all my life,
It makes the peas taste funny,
But it keeps them on the knife.

Welcome to vegetableseeds.net.au

October 2014 Newsletter



Peas should be sown before the end of this month in Tasmania and similar cool climate regions because the humid hot weather in summer causes mildews which render the peas inedible.

Peas are one of the easiest crops to grow and most varieties produce high yields, as long as they are watered and fed. They are easy to harvest, make excellent pie floaters, go with virtually every meal and freeze well.

I used to be cynical about the genuine differences between the many named varieties being offered but now, having grown them, I know it's true and plant

breeders throughout history have bred for many characteristics in pea crops and because of their effort today's breeding work is built on their success.

At Inspirations we have been growing and now offer a few of the older true to type varieties in our catalogue.

Experienced gardeners can tell the difference between varieties and most home gardeners have a favourite.

One important thing about saving the seeds is that different varieties can cross with each other. If in doubt just grow one variety a year. In the following the haulm refers to the collective stems of the plant without pods.

Winter sowing trial 2010; to see if time of sowing peas may be important.

14/8/10 Sowed 10 seeds of the following in cold wet heavy clay soil in Relbia Tasmania.

Green peas: Melbourne Market, Onward, Alderman, Bounty, Green Feast.

Snow peas: Mammoth melting, Oregon Giant.

Snap pea: Sugar Bon.

1/9/10 Onward and Mammoth Melting germinated slowly, approx. two weeks.

9/9/10 Bounty and Sugar Bon germinated now approx. three weeks. Melbourne Market, Alderman, Greenfeast, Oregon Giant all rotted so all re-sown.

14/9/10 Melbourne Market, Alderman, Oregon Giant all germinated approx. five days this time.

24/9/10 All varieties about 5cm tall.

11/11/10 Onward 1m tall and flowering. Alderman and Bounty 1m tall.

26/11/10 Melbourne Market pods formed. Onward large pods formed. Alderman and Bounty flowering. Mammoth melting flowering. Sugar bon lots of pods. Greenfeast a few flowers.

14/12/10 Melbourne market finished. Onward 8 peas to pod, Green feast 1.2m flowers and pods. Alderman 1.6m covered in pods. Bounty covered in pods 1m. Mammoth melting, smaller pods than Oregon giant.

From this can be seen that there is no advantage to sowing early in cold wet clay soils.

We experienced early losses and had to resow several varieties. In the above example we can see it is best to sow from early mid-September at the earliest for the best germination results. In warmer areas with sandy soils results may be different.



Peas (*Pisum sativum*) - An amazing family

The ones marked with * are in vegetableseeds.net.au catalogue.

Shelling Peas

Onward *

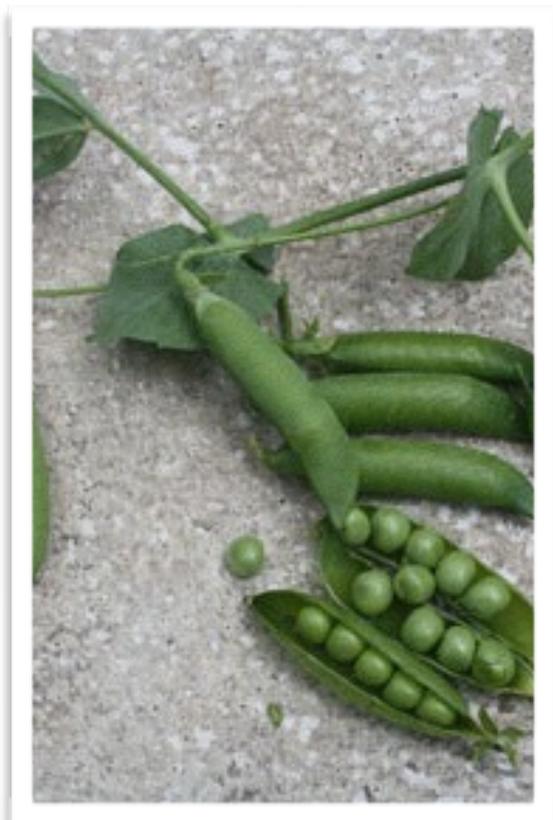
Haulm 0.5m. Mid-season very large succulent peas, nine to the pod, a fine flavoured pea. Yields over a long season.

Massey/Melbourne Market *

The same variety basically. Massey known as William Massey. An early maturing short season type. Haulm 0.5m. Light green peas, good flavour. 6 peas to the pod

Green Feast*

Haulm 0.6m. Vigorous mid season variety produces over a long period, 8 peas to the pod.



Willow/Summerwood*

Haulm 2m. Very strong vigorous growth dark green pods very productive. Freezes well. Good flavour.

Alderman/Telephone*

Haulm 2m. Possibly one of the best climbing peas ever, very old variety the last surviving of a series of telephone types. Pods 12cm, lovely flavour, very high yields.

The Gladstone

Bred by Holmes. Late season. Haulm 0.25m. dark green pods slightly curved and pointed. 9 peas to the pod, excellent flavour and yields.

Meteor*

Haulm 33cm Bred by Sharpes of Sleaford. A dwarf first early (late October). Seeds grey/cream. flavour good, high yields.

Little Marvel

Bred by Suttons seeds of Reading 1900. Dwarf 98 days maturity. Creamy coloured seeds. Haulm 0.4m branched. Pods plump and curved pointed. 8 peas to pod. Good flavour, high yield.

Exquisite

Bred by Laxtons. A first early. Haulm 1m. 8 peas to pod. Pods square ended pale green. Good flavour very high yields.

Daisy

Bred by Carters of Raynes Park 1841. Second early. Haulm 0.3m pale green pods puffy and straight pointed ends 9 peas to pod. Flavour not exceptional yields high.

Lincoln

Bred in 1884. Second early 107 days maturity. Haulm 0.4m stocky yellow foliage many tendrils. Slender pods. Good flavour high yields.

Lord Chancellor

Bred by Carters of Raynes park. Maincrop Haulm 0.5m. Seed brick shaped dark green straight pods, eight peas to pod. Good flavour very long harvesting period.

Pilot

Bred by Hursts seeds 1904, first early largest pod of its type. Maturity 94 days. Good flavour and yields.

Veitches

Western Express/Yorkshire Hero. Haulm 0.5m three to four stems light green. Good flavour, freezes well.

Gradus

Bred in 1890s by Laxtons. Second early, short season 100 days maturity. Haulm 1m 2 to 3 stems light green. Pods light green.

Champion of England

Selected by William Fairbeard 1843. Award of merit in 1876. Haulm 2m vigorous strong branches. Pods smooth light green.

Senator

Bred by Webbs 1894. Early to mid 108 days maturity. Haulm 1m. Pods curved and pointed, large seed. High yields not an exceptional flavour.

Magnum Bonums

Bred in 1860s. Maincrop. Haulm 2m vigorous strong branches, straight pods excellent flavour, waxy texture. High yields over long harvest period.

Ne Plus Ultra

Bred in 1840s. Maincrop. Haulm 2m straight pods blunt ended. Excellent flavour, high yields. Used for breeding Paynes conquerer and Cullingfords champion.

The following are from Law and Somner Seeds Catalogue, Swanston Street Melbourne, dated 1920.

They all claim to be high yielding good flavour. Little information about their origin that I can find.

Peter Pan, American Wonder, The Sherwood, Day's Early Sunrise, Union Jack, Sharpe's Marchioness, Sharpe's Queen, Chelsea Gem, Richard Seddon, English Wonder, Witham Wonder, Duke of Albany, Dwarf Defiance, Juno, Pride of the Market, Stratagem.

Novella

Haulm 0.8m A leafless shelling pea, these varieties have been in existence for several years, it's good to see a new one.

Twinkie*

Haulm 30cm. Dwarf early season (November) follows on from Meteor. Slightly smaller yields than Meteor, smaller peas. Very high yields. Excellent flavour.

Bounty*

Mildew resistant. Haulm 1m tall. Mid- season (mid to late November), 8 peas to the pod, medium sized square pale green peas, high yields over a long season.

Even more varieties:

Lord Leicester, Hursts Green Shaft, Feltham First, Kelvedon Wonder, Legacy, Style, Cavalier, Feltham First.

Petit Pois

Variety 'Waverex'. Haulm 0.6m very prolific, very sweet small peas and underestimated in cooking.

Used as canning peas often with baby carrots. Very popular in France with most meat dishes, lamb accompanied by petit pois with mint and butter.

In the UK they were very popular with steak and kidney pudding in the 1960s.



Snow Peas/Mangetout



Thin wide 5cm by 2cm paddle shaped pods, used in salads and stir fries. Not grown for the peas themselves.

Purple Podded*

Haulm 0.3m. green leaf with purple tints. Very early (late October) high yields of sweet flavoured 5cm by 2cm purple podded snow peas.



NB: this is different to the older almost inedible taller heirloom varieties that were grown for the pretty flowers as a novelty pea. Saved seeds are brownish purple.

Hadspen Pea*

Dark green brownish round seeds. Developed by Bob Reid. Haulm 1.2m, early variety (late October) with purple flowers followed by 5cm by 2cm succulent tasty pods for human consumption, moderate yields. Also grown as a forage crop with taller non- invasive oats, the peas 'climb' up the oats stems, an innovation. High nutritional value as stock feed.

Mammoth Luschious

A very old 2m tall variety.

Carouby de Mausanne

Dark green brownish seeds. Very old French variety. Haulm 2m, bicolor purple and mauve flowers. 11cm by 2cm straight and curled pale green pods. Flavour sweet followed by a bitter taste, high yields over a short season.

Mammoth Melting*

Round seeds. 2m tall, pods 11cm by 2cm.

Yakumo

Haulm 2.5m. Purple flowered. Pods 13cm by 3cm.

Oregon Giant*

Bred by Dr Baggett. Wrinkled seeds.



1.5m tall, large succulent pods 11cm by 4cm. Powdery mildew resistant.

Oregon Sugar Pod

Bred by Dr Baggett. 0.9m tall. Pods 10cm by 2cm. Powdery mildew resistant.

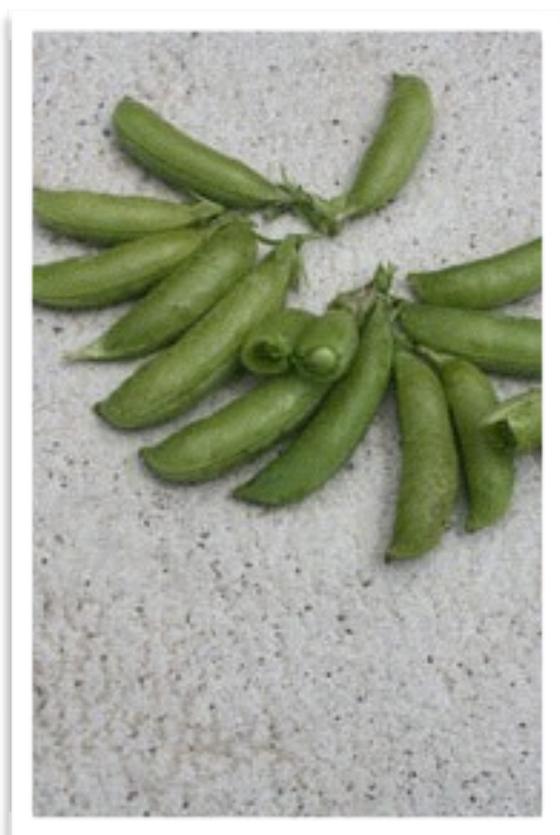
Vixen

1m tall. An improvement on Oregon Giant. Pods 9cm by 2cm and are straighter than other types.

Green Devil

Similar to Vixen, but a new variety. 10cm by 2cm dark green straight pods.

Snap Peas



Sweet round pods containing sweet peas. Wide culinary uses.

Sugar Anne

Haulm 0.5m. The sweetest of all snap peas. Pods 7.5cm. High yields.

Sugar Bon*

Haulm 0.5m. 7.5cm pods. Sweet flavour. Mildew resistant, High yields.

Cascadia

Haulm 1.2m. Pods 7.5cm. Very sweet. Pods in doubles, high yields.

This is not an exhaustive list. In the following few years we hope to offer some of these true heirlooms and others not listed here, this will take time and many trials.

Peas Glorious Peas

Peas like warm soils and some moisture to germinate strongly, seed can rot in cold wet heavy clay soils.

This is one reason why some commercial seeds are treated with a fungicide.

In our cool climate sowing takes place between early September and end October.



Sow several crops throughout this time slot for an ample supply of peas. A green manure like our oats, lupins or tic beans sown on a cold clay soil in the autumn will partly warm and dry out the soil for spring sowing.

Raised beds are excellent for peas because you can improve drainage, texture and to some degree structure of the soil. I use 2.5 lts of complete organic fertiliser on each 1m by 2m raised bed at Inspirations in early spring they also have a mixture of mushroom compost, sheep manure, and potting mix and some have biochar see newsletter: **August 2013** COF and Biochar.



We use the same materials that we sell.

I sow seeds about 1cm apart 2cm deep, pea seeds do not mind being crowded.

At Cressy, where we grow crops for seeds, the soil is very sandy, dries out quickly and weeds grow fast so we use a weed mat with holes at 15cm intervals and plant seeds 4cm deep instead of 2cm the deep.

Sowing deeper and using weed mat on sandy soils means soil moisture is retained for strong germination. For raised beds gardening literature refers to using 'well-rotted farmyard manure'.

This urine soaked straw is regularly watered and turned with a fork and mixed with some sand, silt and clay (loam).

The even distribution of heat rots the material down to increase water holding capacity with a residue of nutrients, eventually it becomes humus.

These days we can purchase larger amounts of composted material mixed with loam from landscape suppliers.

Dwarf varieties like 'Meteor' and 'Bounty' can trail on the ground. Climbing peas like 'Alderman', need pea netting on a trellis about 2m tall.

One reason climbers went out of fashion was because of the cost of labour to harvest them - dwarf varieties can be machine harvested easily.

Some varieties produce crops over a long growing season like 'Onward' and others are called short season, where peas form all at once and then finish like 'Massey'.

Harvest peas regularly when pods are full and still sweet. Snow peas are best harvested regularly before they get too big and the almost inedible peas form and strings develop.

Snap peas are best harvested regularly when young and are at their sweetest. You do not have to blanch peas for freezing. Leave the pea roots in the ground the fine fibrous material is excellent at improving drainage and soil structure.

Happy gardening wherever you may be.

