

# Pea

**Cool-climate vines. Some varieties are for harvesting the peas out of (shelling) and some have edible pods (snow) and some (snap) can be eaten both ways. There are also climbing types (up to 6 ft. or more) and bush types (grow into a mound).**

- CULTURE:** Will grow in a variety of soils as long it drains well and has enough organic matter incorporated to retain moisture. Needs full sun. Provide trellis or string support.
- PLANTING:** Plant early in the Spring as soon as the soil can be worked, optimum germination temperature begins at 50°. Sow a fall crop in July or August. Create a narrow trench 3" deep, amending with compost. Soak seeds overnight in water before planting. Sow seeds 3-4" apart, ½ to 1" deep in rows 30-40" apart. Do not thin vines. Keep roots mulched and well-watered.
- FERTILIZING:** "Legume inoculant" can hasten germination and encourage nitrogen-fixing bacterial nodes on the plant roots. An all-purpose, slow release fertilizer is just fine and lots of organic material always helps.
- HARVESTING:** Begin harvesting shelling peas when the pods have swelled to almost a cylindrical shape but before they lose their bright green color. Watch pods for swelling and harvest soon after. If left on for too long the peas will become starchy. Harvest edible-pod peas when they are 2-3 " long, before the seeds swell.
- STORAGE:** Refrigerate peas unwashed. Use as soon as possible.
- DRYING:** Follow individual seed pack instructions for drying types. Store dried peas in an airtight container.
- OTHER:** Try eating the pea vine tendrils in salads, stir-fries or as a garnish.