



Sweet Pea Planting Guide

About Sweet Peas

A perfect choice for climbing fences or trellises, Sweet Peas are also often included in the cutting garden, as their sweet fragrance is so compelling. Easily established from seed, germination can be sped up by nicking and soaking the seeds prior to planting.

When to Plant

In temperate regions, where frosts occur, sow Sweet Pea seeds in late winter or early spring, just as soon as the soil is able to be worked - don't wait until the threat of frost has passed. In milder climates that don't experience a frost, sow seeds in late fall, for early spring blooms.

Where to Plant

Sweet Peas require fertile, well-drained soil in order to thrive. 6 weeks before planting, dig a trench and re-fill with well-decomposed compost or manure where you will sow your seeds. Sweet Peas prefer full sun conditions, but also cool, moist, well-draining soil.

How to Plant

Soak your seeds overnight to soften that hard exterior of Sweet Pea seeds, or use a sharp knife to nick the exterior shell to help increase your chances for germination. Make holes in the trench with a pencil, and drop your seeds into the hole. Press down on the soil in order to cover. Germination will take place in 7-15 days.

Caring for Sweet Peas

As Sweet Pea seedlings emerge, continue to fill the trench with additional soil. Ensure that soil remains adequately moist. If additional fertilizer is needed, ensure that you select varieties that feature a higher phosphorus content, as nitrogen heavy fertilizers will suppress flowering and encourage green growth. Deadheading spent flowers will encourage additional blooms. Also ensure to provide supports, such as trellises, as Sweet Peas are noted climbers. At approximately, 4" high, pinch off the middle-growing tip to encourage a sturdier development for your Sweet Peas as they mature. Once established, mulching will help keep your Sweet Pea roots cool, however, they will tend to fade once temperatures get to 65 degrees F or higher.