

Peas

Pisum sativum · Legume family

DIFFICULTY Easy
TYPE Annual, direct sown, cool season
MATURITY 55–70 days



SUN
Full–part sun



WATER
Regular



SOIL PH
6.0–7.5



SPACING
5–8cm × 45cm



DEPTH
2–3cm

01 Nitrogen fixers

Like all legumes, peas host bacteria in root nodules that pull nitrogen from the air into the soil — a benefit to whatever's planted after them.



nitrogen-fixing nodules along the roots

may need a stake or trellis

02 Planting

METHOD	Direct sow along a trellis, fence, or netting for climbing types.
SOIL	Well-drained, moderately fertile — too rich and you get leaf over pods.
TIMING	Sow in cooler months; peas dislike summer heat.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

03 Growing care

- Provide support at planting — climbing types need it early.
- Water regularly, especially once flowering begins.
- Pick often to keep production going.
- Leave roots in the ground after harvest to release fixed nitrogen.

04 Problems

- **Powdery mildew** — humid weather; improve airflow, water at the base.
- **Pea weevil** — notched leaf edges; generally cosmetic, tolerate.
- **Poor pod set** — heat stress; grow in the cooler part of the year.
- **Birds** — net young seedlings, which are a favourite target.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Pods are plump and glossy but not bulging tight.
METHOD	Pick with two hands to avoid tearing the vine.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Fridge a few days; freezes very well.
PRESERVING	See Freezing Produce (blanch and freeze a glut) or Canning & Bottling (pickled beans) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Carrot Cucumber Corn	Onion Garlic	Follow with heavy feeders like brassicas to use the fixed nitrogen.
Radish		