

Pea Growing Guide

How to plant and care for peas

When to plant	Spring: 4 to 6 weeks before your last frost. Fall: 8 to 10 weeks before your first fall frost.
Soil	At least 45 to 50°F and dry enough to crumble. Raised beds warm up and drain sooner.
Seeds	Soak 8 to 12 hours. Sow 1 to 2 inches deep. Sprouts in 5 to 10 days.
Spacing	Vining peas: 2 inches apart in a double row along the trellis. Bush peas: 3 to 4 inches apart, rows 18 to 24 inches apart.
Support	Put up the trellis before planting: netting, chicken wire, pea sticks, or a fence.
Water	Keep the soil evenly moist: about 1 inch a week in cool weather, more in warm spells. Water most carefully once the plants flower.
Mulch and feed	Mulch lightly with grass clippings, leaves, or straw. Feeding is rarely needed.
Harvest	55 to 70 days after planting. Pick every 2 to 3 days, in the morning.

Peas don't like hot weather. Quality drops fast above 80°F.