

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing Sweet Pea

Sweet Pea flowers are a popular option amongst gardeners due to their beautiful colors and rich fragrance. Sweet Peas come in many different colors, including blue, red and purple. Some varieties grow multiple colors or have streaks in the blooms. Sweet Peas are an old-fashioned flower that both experts and beginners choose for their gardens. They are a good starter flower when learning to grow flowers from seed because their seeds are large and usually they germinate easily. Sweet Peas are annuals and need to be replanted each year.

To plant:

Sweet Peas do well in cooler weather, and they can be planted outdoors as soon as the soil can be worked in the spring. However, starting Sweet Pea seeds indoors allows for a longer blooming season. Plant the seeds indoors six weeks before the last frost date. The seed coating must be softened prior to planting, so soak the seeds overnight in water or use your fingernail to scratch the outer coating. Pick a biodegradable pot to plant seeds in indoors, because Sweet Pea roots do not like to be disturbed when transplanting. Plant seeds 1 inch deep. If planting outdoors, dig a trench before planting the seeds inside the trench, and plant them 10 inches apart and 1 inch deep. Seeds should germinate within 15 days.

To grow:

When moving Sweet Peas outdoors, provide a trellis of at least 6 feet for them to climb upon. Some Sweet Peas are true bush varieties, but most others are climbers. Cut the flowers and deadhead regularly to encourage more blooms. Keep the soil moist



[Bijou Mix Sweet Pea seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

and provide mulch around the base of the plant to deter weeds and retain moisture. Sweet Peas like afternoon shade to protect them from harsh heat. Vines may die in the summer due to the heat. If a vine dies, remove it and plant something else.

To harvest:

Sweet Peas make excellent cut flowers due to their height and fragrance, and blooms should be picked often to encourage more growth. Sweet Peas are ready to cut for a bouquet when the lowest flowers on the stem are just beginning to blossom. Sweet Pea seeds may resemble edible peas, but they are toxic if consumed, so keep out of reach from children and pets.

What Sweet Pea craves:

Upon planting outdoors, mix aged manure and compost in with the soil so fertilizer isn't necessary. If gardeners opt to add extra nourishment, it is suggested to use high potash feeds, as nitrogen-based fertilizer will encourage too much top growth on the



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plant. If soil isn't enriched by manure or compost, fertilize with a half-strength liquid fertilizer twice during the Sweet Pea's growing season.

Where to buy Sweet Pea seeds:

Urban Farmer sells a wide variety of Sweet Pea seeds, ranging from mixes, dwarf varieties and climbing varieties.

Check out our Sweet Pea seed selection on our website at ufseeds.com!



[Knee High Sweet Pea seeds available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)



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