

HOME HORTICULTURE

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MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



Michigan
Groundwater
Stewardship
Program

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Information Packet was Compiled from the Michigan State University Home Horticulture Database.

Peas

Peas can be planted early as they tolerate some frost. When grown on light ground they prefer slight mid-day shade, but otherwise need full sun. Peas may be grown on almost any soil if the pH is above 5.0. Germination is slow in wet, cool, poorly aerated soil. Poor drainage is harmful at any stage of growth. Peas are planted when the soil is workable but before May 15. The soil temperature needs to be above 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Plant the seed 1-inch deep and 2 to 3 inches apart in rows 2 feet apart. Plants to be trained on a trellis are planted 6 inches apart. Adequate water is needed for good pod development. The plants may be grown on poles spaced at 3 feet intervals with 2 to 3 plants per pole. A chicken wire trellis may be used. Peas benefit from mulching.

Harvest just before the peas are full size but when pods are well filled and firm. Start harvesting at the bottom of the plant as those pods mature first.

Pea Facts

Days to Maturity: 55 to 90 days

Approximate Yield/10 feet of row: 2 pounds

Per Person Requirements: Fresh: 15 to 20 feet of row or Preservation: 40 to 60 feet of row

Weights: 1 bushel (unshelled) = 20 pounds

Pea Insects

Pea Weevil

The adults are brownish with white, black and grayish markings. The white, small, larvae have brown heads and mouths. The adults feed on blossoms and lay eggs on the young pods. The larvae burrow into the seed.

Aphids

Aphids suck plant juices causing curled and distorted foliage and stunted plants.

Cutworms

These dull colored worms feed on the foliage at night and clip plants off at the soil. During the day they hide in the soil just below the soil surface.

Green Cloverworm

The larvae are green and have 3 pairs of legs in the middle of the body and have white stripes down their sides. They feed on the leaves and pods.

Seed Corn Maggot

The maggots feed on the seed before or during sprouting.

Loopers

Loopers are green with light stripes down their sides. They hump up when crawling and feed on the foliage.

Pea Diseases

Ascochyta Pod Spot

Irregular light colored spots with dark margins form on the pods. The leaves have spots with concentric circles and dark dots. Spots may form on the stems near the soil.

Bacterial Blight

Large water-soaked spots form on the pods and irregular dark spots form on the leaves. A cream colored, shining ooze develops in the center of the spots.

Fusarium Wilt

The disease causes yellowed leaves and wilted plants. The interior of the stems is lemon yellow.

Root Rots

Root rots cause yellowish unhealthy looking plants. The stems below ground are yellowish brown, red or black. The roots have the same discoloration. The disease often kills plants at flowering.

Powdery Mildew

A white powdery growth forms on the plants.