

When pods are completely dry (about 6 weeks) open the pods to save the pea seeds inside.

Fully dry peas should be hard and will not dent with your thumbnail.

Store peas in an airtight container to prevent moisture and humidity from reaching seeds.

Pea seeds should remain viable for 3-4 years.



## CREDITS

<https://www.seedsavers.org/amish-snap-pea>

<https://www.seedsavers.org/learn#growing-guides>

Dried pod: <https://homesteadhouligan.com/2013/06/28/seed-saving-amish-snap-peas/>

Peas on plate: <https://getbusygardening.com/collecting-storing-pea-seeds/>



# PEA

“Amish Snap”

(*Pisum sativum*)

## RPLMN.ORG/SEED

Plan a seed.

**Backyard Bounty Urban Homesteading Meetup**

*History Center*  
of Olmsted County



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## HOW TO GROW



Direct Seed: 2-3"  
Apart

Seed Depth: 1/2-1"

Rows Apart: 24"

Support: Trellis

Plant peas in the spring as soon as the soil is workable and warmed to 50°F. Seeds will germinate in 7-14 days.

A trellis will be needed to support the vines that can grow 5-7 feet tall. Plant on both sides of trellis to increase harvest.

Peas like to be well watered, but not waterlogged.

Peas can tolerate some shade but make sure to plant peas where they will receive at least 5-6 hours of sunlight per day.

## HOW TO HARVEST

Harvest peapods when they are 2-3 inches long and are just beginning to swell, usually 60-70 days after planting. At this stage, the peas inside the pods are tender and sweet.

Once harvest begins, check pea vines every couple of days.

Picking often produces more flowers and increases peapod production. You can also leave the pods on the vine longer to produce shelling peas. Peapods last 1-2 weeks in the refrigerator crisper.

## GARDENING TIP

Peas and other legumes fix nitrogen in the soil. This means peas have a symbiotic relationship with special bacteria in the soil that takes nitrogen from the air and converts it to a form of nitrogen that remains in the soil. This adds nutrients to the soil for future crops.

When your pea plants have withered, don't pull up the entire plant! Cut the plant at soil level and leave the roots in the ground to fertilize the soil for next season.

## HOW TO EAT

Peas are a great snack right off the vine! If they do make it into your kitchen, they are delicious in salads and stir-fries.

Do not overcook peas – they are best when they have a little crunch.

## HOW TO SAVE SEED

### RATING: EASY

Peas are annuals and self pollinate.

Peas have a very low risk of cross-pollinating. If growing more than one variety of pea (*Pisum sativum*), separate them in the garden by 10-20 feet.

As pea production slows in late summer, stop picking pods and leave them on the plant until they turn light brown and dry, about 4 weeks after the eating stage.

When most pods are nearly dry, cut the plants at soil level, bundle together and hang upside down in a dry area with good air flow.

