

# Sugar Daddy Organic

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CERTIFIED ORGANIC! A very productive, 60-75cm (24-30") bushy plant that benefits from some support, Sugar Daddy snap pea seeds produce pods that become uniquely stringless, 8cm (3") snap peas. They grow in pairs near the top of the plant for easy picking. This variety has good disease resistance, but not to the enation virus that sometimes spreads in mid-summer. That means Sugar Daddy is perfect for those early spring plantings, when the soil is still cool and wet – for early summer harvests of delicious snap peas. While not strictly necessary, Sugar Daddy peas will benefit from the use of [Pea Inoculant](#) at planting time.

**Matures in 68 days.** (*Open-pollinated seeds*)





Since you cannot purchase shelling peas or edible pod peas that are freshly picked, this is one vegetable every home garden should have. The peas in the pod taste sweetest right after they have been picked (while you're still in the garden!). Follow along with this handy [How to Grow Peas Guide](#) and grow food.

**Latin**

*Pisum sativum*

Family: Fabaceae

**Difficulty**

Easy

**We Recommend:** [Little Marvel \(PE605\)](#) is a compact, bushy pea variety that only grows a couple of feet tall. Then the pods come and they can be harvested over a window of about three weeks. The peas have a satisfying, fresh flavour and they freeze particularly well, so it's an economical crop for winter use.

**For Urban Gardeners:** Surprise your guests by serving a salad of pea microgreens using [Dwarf Grey Sugar \(PE592\)](#). Harvest the seedlings at about 4 inches tall, while they are still tender and crunchy – try them with a simple vinaigrette dressing!

### Timing

Peas prefer cool weather. Plant as early in spring as the soil can be worked, from mid-February to the end of May. After April 1, sow varieties that are listed as being enation resistant if you live in an area where aphids carry the enation virus. Sow again from July to mid-August for a fall crop. The success of a fall crop will depend on the weather. Optimal soil temperature: 10-20°C (50-70°F). Seeds should sprout in 7-14 days.

### Starting

Soaking seeds is not advised for damp soils. Use a seed inoculant and sow seed 2cm (1") deep. After April 15th, sow seed 5cm (2") deep. Space seeds 2-7cm (1-3") apart in the row. Do not thin. If the seeds fail to sprout, try to dig some up and check for rot or insect damage. The challenge with untreated pea seeds is to give them an early start but to avoid rot.

### Growing

Use well-drained soil amended with finished compost. Add 2 cups of rock phosphate or bonemeal for 3m (10') of row. Plant most varieties along a trellis or fence for support as they climb.

### Harvest

Pick when pods fill out and peas are bright green. Make multiple sowings or grow several varieties to extend the harvest season.

### How to Blanch Peas

Peas of all kinds freeze particularly well for use in the fall and winter. Prior to freezing, it's important to briefly submerge peas in boiling water — this kills the natural enzymes that exist in peas that would otherwise reduce the nutrients and cause the peas to break down over time. We recommend using a large pot of water at a rolling boil, and a colander or sieve for dipping. Timing is everything. For snap and snow peas, dip the whole pods into boiling water for exactly two minutes, and then transfer the pods to a bowl of ice water. For shelled peas, ninety seconds is perfect. Use a timer. After ninety seconds, transfer the peas to a bowl of ice water. All peas (and pods) should then be dried thoroughly on kitchen towels before being stored in zip-top or vacuum bags, with as little air as possible in each bag.

### Diseases & Pests

If plants turn yellow and wither from the ground up just after flowering, you have pea root rot from a soil fungus. It infects the plant in early spring when the soil is very wet. Prevent it by delaying planting until the soil is drier and by using finished compost when you plant. Rotate peas into new areas each year without repeating an area for 3-4 years. Pea enation disease is a Coastal virus disease spread by the green peach aphid. It ends flowering and causes pods to become warty and misshapen.

The pea moth is a sporadic and usually inconspicuous pest. The tiny brown moth flutters around when the flowers are just opening, and lays its eggs on the immature seed pod. The damage the caterpillar does not mean you can't eat the rest of the peas in the pod. The larva is a tiny caterpillar with a black head, which feeds inside the seedpod and overwinters in the soil. There is one generation per year across Canada. In the pea-growing areas of the lower Fraser Valley in British Columbia, releases of two parasites have provided partially effective biological control. In general, processing and fresh-market pea crops should not be grown in areas with dry (seed) pea or seed vetch crops. After harvest, all remaining pods and vines should be destroyed by ensiling, feeding or deep cultivating.

## **Companion Planting**

Superb companions for beans, carrots, celery, corn, cucumber, eggplant, parsley, peppers, potatoes, radish, spinach, strawberries and turnips. Avoid planting peas near onions.