

Sweet Pea

Sweet Pea seed can be poisonous if swallowed.

Plant type:	Annual
Sowing:	<p>Sow Autumn and Spring. Use a low nutrient sowing compost. Sweet Pea seedlings are sensitive to high nutrient concentration. Temperature: 20°C at seed level. Cover with thick layer (7 - 10 mm) of medium grade Vermiculite. Germinate in light (we use normal light conditions of 16 hours light). Seedling emergence 1 - 2 weeks. Various techniques of pre-soaking seed or chipping the seed coat have been suggested to improve germination. We have no evidence to indicate that either of these techniques is of use.</p> <p>Damping off can occur with Sweet Pea seedlings. Do not over water emerging seedlings. A pre-sowing fungicide drench can be used to prevent problems.</p>
Growing on:	
Temperature	Temperature should be lowered to no more than 10°C once the seedlings have emerged.
pH	6.5
Feeding	Plants should not be overfed with nitrogen. Many growers find a high potassium compound fertiliser suitable for the crop.
Growth regulation	Use of growth regulants can increase branching (though not essential).
Pack/Pot size	Traditionally 10 – 12 seeds in a 9cm pot.
Advice	It is essential to maintain good moisture throughout production. Plants should never dry out but some air is needed in the substrate as well – it should not be heavy and saturated. A balance is needed.
Common diseases	Botrytis, Mildews

Ball Colegrave cultural information is issued as a guide to growers, based on our own trials experience. It is not intended as a blueprint for growing. Any chemicals referred to should be used only in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.