

ALLOTINABOX®

SEED HELP

No.1 MANGE TOUT

Peas come in two varieties, shelling and Mange Tout, both mature at different times, you can sow seeds in a cold frame outside in the Autumn or straight into a tall container or in the ground in the Spring.

Peas require a sunny, nutrient rich soil, and the moisture needs to be retained to keep them thriving. We like to add some compost with a mix of well-rotted manures, which helps improve the soil and retain the moisture during the hot summer months.

Peas need to be sown into warm soil, In early Spring cover the soil with a polythene top or protect with fleece to protect the seedlings. Peas sown in cold and wet ground will rot off.

To start an early crop, try sowing seeds in a some old plastic guttering from late September through to mid November. It's important to have some drainage holes strategically placed throughout the length of the guttering, so create some holes at regular intervals along the base. Fill the guttering to the top with seed compost and add some seeds about 3 inches apart, add some water. For a succession of peas, sow these at two-week intervals.

Place the guttering in a greenhouse or a cold frame, and always keep the compost nice and moist with regular watering. Transplant the seedlings into another container or directly into the ground, water and cover with a cloche or a protective cover to encourage moisture and growth.

Don't pull the plant after it is harvested as they are full of nitrogen- fixing bacteria, Cut off stems at ground level, allowing the roots to rot down, which will release nitrogen back into the soil, we like to start off our tomato crops in the same container which is full of this earthy goodness.

