

Example Packets



What you will need

- Johnsons seeds
- A garden spade or fork and rake
- Plant labels
- Protective netting or twigs
- Support such as tall canes
- Seed trays or pots
- Compost



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A quick guide to



Hints and Tips

▪ If the soil is poor, light and sandy, has a low pH or you are growing in containers, it is well worth using a Pea and Bean Booster inoculant that provides high numbers of beneficial bacteria to the soil. The friendly bacteria help the peas and beans 'fix' the large amounts of nitrogen they need from the air, so they can produce the best possible crops.

- **Broad Beans** are best sown in staggered double rows to make the best use of space.
- Seeds germinate most readily in cool (but frost free) conditions, avoid sowing seeds indoors in overly warm rooms or greenhouses.
- Tall plants may benefit from staking in exposed or windy locations. When the first pods appear it is best to pinch out the

growing tip at the very top of the plants, to help deter blackfly and help the pods to fill.

- Pods should be picked from the bottom of the plant upwards.
- **Climbing Beans and Runner Beans** will require a support up to 1.8-2.4m tall, such as wigwams made of canes lashed together at the top.
- It is necessary to water them heavily during dry spells and at least twice a week when flowers and pods begin to appear.
- Mulching around the plants will help to conserve moisture.
- It is essential to pick beans regularly and often, to promote the production of further pods.
- At the end of the season dig old, spent plants back into the soil to make full use of the nitrogen they contain.
- **Peas** are well worth repeat sowing 2 or 3 times to extend the harvest season. They are best sown in staggered double rows to make best use of space.
- Placing a cage of twiggy sticks over the rows will help protect emerging seedlings from birds as



well as providing some support for the plants as they grow.

- Sow outdoors when the soil has warmed up as seeds may rot in cold wet ground.

into a prepared trench when the plants are large enough and have been properly hardened off. This will help prevent excessive disturbance of the roots.



- Early varieties can be started off indoors in pots or trays or even a length of old guttering, the entire contents can then be carefully slid out of one end and

- Regular picking of pods is essential for continuous supplies of the freshest pods. Pods should be harvested from the bottom of the plant upwards.



Types of Peas and Beans



Broad Beans produce large broad pods filled with succulent, wonderfully flavoured beans. They are usually available as white or green seeded varieties, each colour has a slightly different flavour. There are also dwarf varieties suitable for more exposed windy locations and autumn sowing varieties for earlier harvests in spring.



Climbing Beans come in a wide range of shapes and colours, with green or yellow, purple or fiery red streaked pods. They produce prolific crops of slender, rounded, or sometimes flattened pods which are usually eaten when young but some varieties can also be left to mature and shelled as Borlotti or Haricot beans. Climbing beans are grown over a support such as cane wigwams in much the same way as runner beans.



Dwarf Beans are also known as French beans, the plants are small and compact but very productive. The pods have excellent flavour and are usually eaten when young but some varieties can be shelled when mature for creamy Flageolet beans.



Peas can be divided into various groups; shelled varieties are often classified by their harvest dates, first early, early and maincrop, or as petit pois, with very sweet and small peas. There are also varieties with sweet crunchy pods that are eaten whole, such as the flat podded mangetout or the round podded snap peas.

It is hard to resist the fantastic sweet flavour of freshly picked, home grown peas. So it's worth sowing some extra to make sure they get as far as the kitchen!



Runner Beans produce some of the highest yields of all beans, the pods are best eaten when young and tender. Their flowers can be attractive enough to grow in an ornamental garden if space is limited. These climbing plants need good support although dwarf non-climbing varieties are also available, these are also ideal for containers.



Peas and Beans

Where

Broad beans and peas are usually best sown directly into prepared soil in their growing position. Dwarf, climbing and runner beans benefit from being sown indoors earlier than sowing outdoors would allow. Beans are generally very productive and as a result can be rather hungry and thirsty plants so they need plenty of water and nutrients. They thrive in a sunny and sheltered position in fertile, moisture retentive soil. Dwarf varieties are often a good choice for exposed locations. Wigwams of tall canes, netting or other support need to be put in place for climbing varieties to grow up.



How

The soil should have plenty of organic matter dug in to provide nutrients and help retain moisture. When sowing outdoors directly into the soil it is good practice to sow two seeds per station to help ensure a strong plant in each location. Young plants will require protection from birds with suitable netting or fleece. When sowing indoors make certain the pots or trays are clean and be sure to use fresh seed compost.



To aid germination the trays should be kept at approx. 15-20°C and covered with glass, polythene or a propagator lid to help keep the compost moist. Remove the cover when seedlings appear. Don't forget to use a label to identify the variety sown.

Care

Once seedlings sown outdoors are large enough to handle they need to be thinned out, removing the weaker seedlings and leaving the stronger ones the room they need to grow on. Ensure the soil is kept moist (but not wet) and weed free. Seedlings raised indoors can be planted out when they're large enough to handle. Always hold seedlings by a leaf so you don't risk crushing the stem. Before planting out, young plants must be acclimatised to outside conditions by being placed in a sheltered location for a few hours during the day. The time spent outside should gradually be increased over the next two weeks (avoid frosts). They can then be planted out to their final growing position at the spacing indicated on the packet.

Harvesting

Many varieties can be sown early and re-sown later in the season to give the longest possible harvest period. Early sowings may benefit from cloche protection. Most peas and beans are best if picked when young and regular picking will encourage further cropping. In hot weather misting the flowers with tepid water can help the pods to set. Please see the back of the seed packets for more specific growing instructions.

