

FIELD PEAS

PISUM SATIVUM - COOL SEASON ANNUAL LEGUME



PRODUCTION GOALS



Not Effective



Very Effective

Quick Growth	
Lasting Residue	
Soil Builder	
Nitrogen Fixation	
Nitrogen Scavenging	
Erosion Reduction	
Compaction Reduction	
Biofumigation Potential	n/d
Weed Suppression	
Forage Harvest Value	
Grain Harvest Value	

Peas have a prostrate climbing growth habit and medium depth taproot. Peas grow rapidly in cool conditions with adequate moisture and flower early in the season. They can be used as a cover crop, for forage or brought to harvest maturity.

TOLERANCES

Flood	
Heat	
Drought	
Shade	
Low Fertility	
Salinity	
Optimal pH	6.0 - 7.5

SOIL DRAINAGE CLASS

Very Well	
Well	
Moderately Well	
Somewhat Poor	
Poorly	
Very Poorly	

AREA & ADAPTABILITY

Peas are a suitable spring-seeded annual for all regions of British Columbia. Some varieties such as Austrian winter peas can overwinter in mild winter conditions with adequate snow cover.

Winter Hardiness Zone 5-9

Seeding Considerations



Rate Drilled	Rate Broadcast	Depth	Frost Seeding	Minimum Germination Temperature	Seeds #
50-110 lbs/ac (56-125 kg/ha)	60-110 lbs/ac (67-125 kg/ha)	1-1.5 in (2.5-4 cm)	Yes	6°C (42°F)	900 /lb (2,000 /kg)

Use a pea/vetch inoculant. Peas have a wide range of seed sizes so seeding rate can vary.

Management Considerations

Field peas are commonly used in mixtures with cereals for forage and grazing use where they add tonnage, forage protein and moisture. They are known to work well with oats, barley, triticale and combinations of cereals. They grow best in cool conditions and can tolerate some early spring frosts.

Generally, peas are not as good for weed suppression as grass cereals are, and they require a supporting cereal crop to stand. They do not tolerate mechanic traffic well. There are a wide range of pea varieties available with many focused for food use. Field peas are also available with a fall seeded biennial habit such as Austrian Winter Peas.

Inter-seeding Potential	
Volunteer Establishment	
Nitrogen Concentration	2.8 - 3.8%

Dry Matter Yield

760-5000 lbs/acre
851-5600 kg/ha

Nitrogen Contribution

90-150 lbs/acre
100.8-168 kg/ha

Termination

Peas can be terminated through tillage, mowing or a chemical application. They have a rapid breakdown due to their high nitrogen content. To maximize amount of nitrogen available termination should occur at the early bud stage.

References

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Disclaimer

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