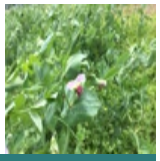
Legume
Pea, Spring
Pisum sativum



PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 DATASET

COVER CROP DESCRIPTION

Also known as Yellow Pea or Canadian Spring Pea. Winter-kills if planted in fall. Excellent spring cover crop. Plant early for lush growth; fast-growing varieties are available. Inoculate the seed with appropriate Rhizobium spp.; cross inoculates vetch. Mixes well with upright cover crop species due to its vining growth habit. Lower biomass and total N fixation compared to overwintered peas and other fall-planted legumes.


Pea, Spring - Brown [2020]


Pea, Spring - Brown [2020]

GOALS

Growing Window	Short
Nitrogen Scavenging	●
Lasting Residue	●
Prevent Fall Soil Erosion	●
Prevent Spring Soil Erosion	●●●
Forage Harvest Value	●●●●
Nitrogen Fixation	●●●●
Penetrates Plow Pan	●
Reduces Surface Compaction	●●
Improve Soil Organic Matter	●●●
Increase Soil Aggregation	●●●
Good Grazing	●●●
Pollinator Food	●●

WEEDS

Residue Suppresses Summer Annual Weeds	
Outcompetes Summer Annual Weeds	●●●
Suppresses Winter Annual Weeds	
Persistence	●
Volunteer Establishment	●●●●●

ENVIRONMENTAL TOLERANCES

Low Fertility	●●●●
Drought	●●●
Heat	●●●
Shade	●●
Flood	●●
Salinity	●

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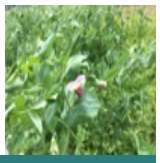

PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 DATASET

Growth Traits

Duration	Annual
Zone Use	Common
Shape And Orientation	Semi-Erect, Climbing
Dry Matter (Lbs/A/Yr)	500 - 2500
Soil Texture	Fine, Medium
Soil pH	6 - 7
Soil Moisture Use	
Hessian Fly Free Date?	No
Nitrogen Accumulation (Lbs/A/Yr)	40 - 100
Ease Of Establishment	■■■□□
Establishes Quickly	■■■□□
Early Spring Growth	■■□□□
Flowering Trigger	Plant Size
Root Depth	Medium
Inoculant Type	Pea/Vetch

Soil Drainage

- Very Poorly Drained
- Poorly Drained
- **Somewhat Poorly Drained**
- **Moderately Well Drained**
- **Well Drained**
- Excessively Drained
- Saturated Muck
- **Well Drained Muck**

Planting

Seeds Per Lb	
Seed Price Per Lb	$$$
Base Seeding Rate (Lbs/A)	65 - 120
Drilled Depth	1" - 1.5"
Can Aerial Seed?	No
Can Frost Seed?	No
Min Germination Temp (°F)	58

Termination

Tillage At Vegetative	■■■■□
Tillage At Flowering	■■■■□
Freezing At Vegetative	■■■■■
Freezing At Flowering	□□□□□
Chemical At Vegetative	■■■■■
Chemical At Flowering	■■■■■
Mow At Flowering	■■■■■
Roller-Crimp At Flowering	■■■□□

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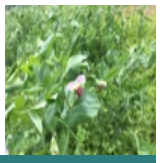
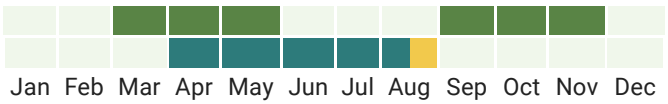


PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 DATASET

Planting and Growth Windows

Frost Seeding	N/A
Reliable Establishment	04/01 - 08/15
Temperature/Moisture Risk	08/16 - 08/31
Active Growth Period	Fall Spring
Winter Survival	Never
Can Interseed	N/A



Extended Comments

Basic Agronomics: Dry matter highly dependent on planting and termination date and precipitation. Season length, habit vary by cultivar. Mixes well with grains when grown for forage. Bloat potential that is easily managed. Seed vigor highly variable. For grazing purposes, restrict to 30% of total ration or mixing with a grass is recommended.

Weeds: Late planting increases heaving. Weak plant with low volunteer seed survivability.

Forage and Grazing: Good cool season component for grazing mixes.

Disease: Susceptible to sclerotinia in the East.

Goals: Best mixed with cereals to prevent lodging.

Taxonomy: forage pea would be better common name - actual garden peas have been bred for unpigmented seed coats and high sugar, which reduces germination. There are both grain type and forage types of spring field peas.

Nematodes: Some cultivars, nematode resistant. Poor host for soybean cyst nematode. Host for root knot nematode, Penetrans Root-Lesion Nematode and sugarbeet cyst nematode.

Pollinators: Self-pollinated so not particularly useful for pollinators compared to other legumes

Termination: If using herbicides to terminate use a tank mixture (e.g., glyphosate + dicamba or 2,4-d)

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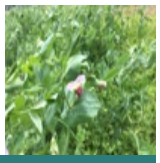

PLANT HARDINESS ZONE 4 DATASET

References & Resources

Cover Crops and Green Manures, University of Vermont Extension