Home

Columbia Seed Co. Ltd. (CSL) has been in operation since 1964. Our Original purpose was the production of high-quality seed peas to be shipped to the United Kingdom, Asia, and Europe. As world trade adapted to new times over the past 50 years our company had to make changes as well.

Columbia Seed established the quality standard for Canadian green pea exporting. We achieved this many years ago with our variety ‘Radley’.

As of July 1st, 2021, CSL is owned by an affiliate company XPT Grain Inc.

Columbia Seed is a contractor, processer, and marketer located in Vauxhall, Alberta, Canada specializing in local agricultural products.

CSL processes specialty legumes (vining pea seed, garden pea seed) as well as faba beans and chickpeas for human consumption, but specialize in marrowfat peas.

CSL thrives to produce the highest quality needed to not just satisfy, but set the industry standard for quality to gain the trust of our customers.

Our processing capacity is up to 8 metric tonnes (MT) per hour, to be packaged into 25, 50 and up to 1,075 kg bags.

Here at CSL we use the top-of-the-line technology to maximize our production efficiency. With an air and screen unit only running at 50% of its capacity, gravity and destoner units, we are well equipped to handle any seed, large or small, and color sorting on every lot.

Pulses

Marrowfat Peas

Marrowfat peas are mature green [peas](about:blank)  that have been naturally dried in the field, rather than harvested while they are still young like the normal [garden pea](about:blank)s. Marrowfat peas are a starchy pea used to make snacks, salad toppings and much more. Marrowfat peas with thin skins and a soft texture are ideal for making mushy peas. Marrowfat peas are available in different qualities, size and color depending on your specific needs. Our Marrowfat production is solely grown on irrigated land to further improve the quality of the peas. Our irrigation water is fed and maintained through several irrigation districts, operated over several hundred kilometers of earth canals, water pipelines, as well as several reservoirs. This infrastructure is used to provide irrigation and domestic water for the farming industry, wildlife, and communities within the district's boundaries.

The name “Marrowfat” was coined around 1730 from marrow and fat.

Green Peas

We are the license holder to the green pea variety AAC Radius, which is available for purchase under a first right of refusal contract. We market Canada No. 1 and 2 green peas on demand and as samples become available to us. Please drop them off or send them to us for evaluation after harvest.

Faba Beans

Vicia Faba, also known in the [culinary](about:blank) scene as the broad bean, fava bean, or faba bean. This bean is a species of flowering plant in the [pea](about:blank) and [bean](about:blank) family [Fabaceae](about:blank). It is widely cultivated as a crop for human consumption. We mostly handle varieties of faba beans with smaller seed size which is mainly used as a [cover crop](about:blank). Faba Bean production is solely grown on irrigated land like our Marrowfat peas.

Forage Peas

Forage pea varieties are similar to traditional field peas in many aspects including agronomic considerations. However, plant breeding priorities for the forage pea variety focus on smaller seed size, increased biomass, and good lodging resistance, rather than on grain yield. Forage peas are grown for their biomass yield, digestibility, protein, and other feeding values. Forage peas are primarily used for the beef and dairy industries. We currently have the variety CDC Dakota available for purchase.

Sprouting Pea Seed

The sprouting pea seed market is steadily growing due to high customer demand. Most of our peas are perfect for sprouting whether you decide to use Marrowfat Peas, Garden Peas, or the varieties we handle specifically for sprouting including, Whero, 4010 and CS19.

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Vining / Garden Pea Seed

Both vining and green peas are for sprouting, fresh market and freezing.

The vining cultivars grow thin [tendrils](about:blank) from their leaves that coil around any available support and can climb to be 1–2 m high. The traditional approach to supporting climbing peas is to thrust branches pruned from [trees](about:blank) or other woody plants upright into the soil, providing a support for the peas to climb. Branches used in this fashion are sometimes called pea brush. Metal fences, [twine](about:blank), or netting supported by a frame are also used for the same purpose. In dense plantings the peas give each other a measure of mutual stability.

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There has been substantial research done over the past 20 years in the development of semi-leafless peas which do not have leaves on the tendrils. This allowed the semi-leafless peas to have greater resistance to lodging, and a higher yield under normal cropping.

Garden peas are distributed mainly for fresh picking. Several varieties are handled by us. PMR indicates some degree of [powdery mildew](about:blank) resistance. Afila types, also called semi-leafless, have clusters of tendrils instead of leaves. Unless otherwise noted these are called dwarf varieties which grow to an average height of about 1m. Giving the vines support is recommended, but not required. The extra dwarf varieties are suitable for container growing, reaching only about 25 cm tall. Some varieties can grow to about 2m with required support.

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Vining / Garden Peas are solely grown on irrigated land. Our irrigation water is fed and maintained through several irrigation districts, operated over several hundred kilometers of earth canals, water pipelines, as well as several reservoirs. This infrastructure is used to provide irrigation and domestic water for the farming industry, wildlife, and communities within the district's boundaries.

We handle varieties as shown in the table below.

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Spring is listed as a check variety; it is not available.

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All other varieties are available on a first come first served basis.

Cover Crop

One of the main ways to get started renewing your soil’s health is to incorporate cover crops into your crop rotation. We handle a few quality cover crop seed varieties, cover crop coaching and advice for your soil health renewal.

Oil Radish

Don't get fooled by imitations that are actually increasing the counts of BCN (Beet Cyst Nematodes) like Till Radish or other vegetable radish. As brassica's relatives, they will multiply a great variety of nematodes (BCN, Root Knot, Northern Root Knot, Southern Root Knot, Stem Bulb, as well as Root Lesion Nematodes), only multi resistant tested varieties will combat nematodes and decrease diseases like Corky Ring Spot, Rhizoctonia, Take-all, Pythium, and most importantly Clubroot.

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Our variety is nematode-resistant. This means that it is specifically designed to reduce the beet cyst nematodes (Heterodera schachtii). The catch crops attract the larvae inside cysts with an active hatching stimulation lying in the soil to move into the roots of mustard and oil radish. Within the nematode-resistant mustard and radish varieties the nematodes are not able to develop into females. The immigrated larvae die or become male to reduce the damage done to the crop.

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Multi-resistant varieties are those which in addition are able to reduce gall-inducing, free-living and virus-transmitting nematodes.

Grower support

We offer close circle growing contracts for Peas and Faba Bean Production.​

We are always looking for smaller sized seed production, 5-65 acres with premium pricing. For contract details please be in touch either via email or give us a call.

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We offer first right of refusal contracts on Green Peas, AAC Radius, and sell other seed on a cash bases.​

We want to see this industry grow so here is some brief advice on "do’s" and "do not’s " that you are probably already aware of but stressing them again may save you from long-term problems on your farm.

Soil is a very complex system that has developed over many thousands of years and our farming practices have only influenced it over the past 50-100 years.

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Keep in mind:

Crops of the same species should only be grown on the same land every 4 - 6 years. This means if you have grown alfalfa, peas, beans, or any other legume on one piece of land, 4 - 6 years should pass until you grow this type again. This also holds true for any other crop except corn, where a monoculture is possible, but should be avoided from plant health perspectives. The above facts hold also true for wheat, barley, brassicas (rape seed, canola, mustard, etc.) or any other of our field crops. Cash returns per acre are important, but long-term sustainability is the most important factor and soil health is key to this. Minimum tillage on grain farms is an important key to save and make money on farms that produce root crops like potatoes, sugar beets etc. Tillage is part of the production, but should be kept to a minimum in the rotational 'non-root crop years'

All these factors need to be considered when cover crops, green manure, plow-down crops are used and when a long-term plan for particular species are made.

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We buy pulse crops on the open market depending on demand.

We are always looking for Faba Beans (high germination!), Chickpeas (Kabuli Type), Green Peas and occasionally yellow peas. Supplying us with representative samples of products you have for sale is important and will speed up the process.

Why Us

Our production area is Southern Alberta, Canada. The production is exclusively on irrigated land fed through a vast number of rivers, canals, and pipelines. The water originates at the peaks of North Americas highest mountain range called The Rocky Mountains. On the way down the mountain the water is fed with natural precipitation and snow melt which provides a unique base rich in minerals producing prime product with supreme taste.

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Unlike the American Midwest, where irrigation depends so heavily on dwindling groundwater resources, Alberta's irrigation water comes from its rivers. Through a diverse irrigation infrastructure, spring precipitation and mountain snow melt is stored, and later put to use in the more arid parts of the province where it is needed most. Learn more about irrigation in Southern Alberta by exploring the links below.

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This river, canal and reservoir system has also created enormous environmental systems for birds & wildlife.

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The irrigated area in Alberta is nearly 700.000 hectares (ha) or 1.730.000 acre growing a wide range of specialty drops like potatoes, sugar beets, sweet corn, silage, beans, and peas.

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We offer premium service and thrive to fulfill all your specifications whether it relates to product preparation, bag size, routing, or documentation. We are here to serve you.

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