

Fragrant Sweet Pea

(*Lathyrus odoratus*)

Planting Instructions

Sweet peas prefer a sunny location with rich, deeply worked, sweet (not acid) soil.

Prepare your soil by placing farmyard manure at the bottom of a 8-10" trench. Cover with a mixture of soil, Kellogg's Amend, a handful of Dr. Earth fish bone meal (nutrients and inoculant) and a little lime. Cover the row with black plastic for a few days to warm the soil prior to planting.

By Seed

in late March... (or when you can)...

•Prepare your seeds by soaking them for 12-24 hours in water (change the water a few times for better germination). Space the soaked seeds onto a moist paper towel. Put the seeds and paper towel in a plastic bag under the sink, atop the hot water heater or in any warm dark location. Leave for 3 days, then check daily for germination.

When most of the seeds have the beginnings of roots showing, it is time to plant them outdoors (the traditional day is Truckee is April 1). VERY Carefully, place the sprouted seeds 1 1/2" deep – Do not touch or break the roots.

From Pots

in early May... (or whenever you can)...

Carefully remove the seedlings from their pot and plant them with the top of the soil 1-2" below the soil line. Don't fill in the hole, let the soil fill it in over time.

Pinch off the tip of your sweet peas in May, when they reach 6 inches tall with at least 3 healthy leaves (this will produce stronger, bushier plants).

Other Related Species

Everlasting Pea or Perennial Sweet Pea (*Lathyrus latifolius*) a relative of *L. odoratus*, is an invasive European perennial vine with attractive sweet pea flowers. They do not have any scent. They work well in a harsh site, far from the rest of your garden.

Spring Vetchling or Spring Pea (*Lathyrus vernus*) is rare, delicate and attractive woodland perennial, native to forests of Siberia.

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