

peas.

Sow: April until June in a v-shaped trench and water before sowing seeds 10cm apart in situ.

Soil: Add plenty of organic matter in the autumn. Peas need a moist, well-drained soil.

Grow: When the plants produce their first tendrils, provide support in the form of pea-sticks or wigwams. Mulch heavily. Once flowers appear, start watering heavily to encourage pods.

Harvest: Shelling peas: when pods comfortably plump, but before they look at all dry. Mangetouts: when you can see tiny peas forming in the pod. Peas need regular harvesting to reach their full productivity.

Problems: Slugs love young pea growth, so spray regularly with garlic spray to protect young shoots. Can dry out in hot summers. Set mousetraps if rodents a problem, and protect crops from birds and pea moth using fine nets.

For more advice on growing and cooking peas, visit the Stylish Gardening Blog: fennelandfern.co.uk