**First Peas to the Table Contest: Tips and Tricks**

Are you having difficult time growing peas? Not to worry! Peas have a short growing season, so you may have opted to grow them indoors. Try implementing these tips and tricks for growing peas inside.

* Provide peas with 6-8 hours of direct sunlight every day.[[1]](#footnote-1)
* Use humus-rich potting soil and don’t over fertilize. Peas are sensitive to too much nitrogen.1
* Avoid touching the plants when they are freshly sprouted – they have fragile roots!1
* Consider having your trellis support rest against a sunny window instead of a wall.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* Punch 3-5 holes (depends on how large the container is) in your potting container to allow excess water to drain.2
* If you use old ice cream containers or small cardboard milk containers you can use the lid to catch the water runoff.2
* Be careful not to bury your seed too deep. Keep it at ¾ inches below the soil. The deeper the seed is the harder the seed has to work to get to the surface of the soil.
* After planting, water enough to dampen the soil and then use water sparingly until the seed sprouts.2
* Once the seed has sprouted, water on Mondays and Thursdays to space out the days between watering.
* Avoid over watering your seeds to prevent root rot.2
* Purchase inexpensive growing lights! Use full-spectrum fluorescent bulbs. They produce a balance of cool and warm light that mimics the natural solar spectrum.
* Remember, peas respond best to temperatures below 70° F.1

1. The Old Farmer’s Almanac. (2016). *Peas: Planting, growing, and harvesting pea plants.* Retrieved from http://www.almanac.com/plant/peas [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. DoItYourself. (n.d.). *7 tips for growing peas indoors.* Retrieved from http://www.doityourself.com/stry/7-tips-for-growing-peas-indoors [↑](#footnote-ref-2)