

# Peas

## **Cultivars**

Contact Manitoba Agriculture's Vegetable Specialist for variety information.

## **Climate and Soil Requirements**

Peas are a cool season crop well suited to commercial production in Manitoba. Peas produce well on a wide range of well-drained mineral soils

## **Seeding Treatment**

To maximize germination and good plant stands, seed should be treated to prevent loss to seed/root maggots, seed decay and damping off.

## **Seeding and Spacing**

*Row Spacing:* 6-8 inches (15-20 cm)

*In-Row Spacing:* 1.5 to 2 inches (4-5 cm)

*Rate:* 90-270 lb/ac depending on seed size and % of germination

*Depth:* 1 to 2 inches (2.5-5 cm) Plant into moisture.

*Date:* As early as possible.

## **Fertility**

If required, contact your Ag Supply, Manitoba Agriculture or fee for service agronomist for fertilizer recommendations.

## **Pest Management**

### **Diseases**

#### **Root Rot, Damping off, Wilt and Near-wilt**

Follow a four-year rotation and other good management practices such as:

- Select and plant only in well-drained fields.
- Minimize soil compaction.
- Work fields immediately after harvest.
- Plant a green-manure crop such as oats, sorghum-sudan grass or fall rye.

#### **Powdery Mildew**

First appearing on the lower and older portions of the plant, small diffuse spots increase in size to become whitish-gray powdery areas, that can eventually cover all above ground parts of the plant. Severe infections can turn the infected crops to a light blue or gray colour. Tissue below the infected areas may darken, with the production of fungal structures. Severe pod infections can cause splitting of seed testa, and the seeds may become a gray to brown colour.

Severe epidemics have been associated with dry growing seasons. During warm, dry weather when dew forms over night, powdery mildew can develop. Unlike many diseases, powdery mildew is less severe in areas of high rainfall or where over-

head irrigation is applied regularly. Scouting for powdery mildew is very important to do at regular intervals as the disease can develop rapidly under suitable conditions.

Resistant pea cultivars are available, and should be used if powdery mildew has been a frequent and severe problem in previous years. Application of water through overhead irrigation systems will assist in preventing late season epidemics. Planting earlier in the season (if possible) will also help to reduce losses from powdery mildew.

### **Insects**

#### **Pea Aphid**

This aphid is usually more abundant when peas are grown adjacent to clover or alfalfa.

#### **Cutworms**

Chemical controls are most effective if applied to moist soils in the early evening.

#### **Weeds**

Competition from weeds can reduce yield and also make harvesting more difficult. If required, contact your Ag Supply agronomist, Manitoba Agriculture agronomist or fee for service agronomist/consultant for weed control recommendations.