

COVER CROP: WINTER PEAS



Benefits:

Winter peas are one of the most reliable cover crops. They are easy to get established!

Winter peas will begin growing 2-4 weeks earlier than regular field peas in the Spring, ensuring fast cover and better weed suppression

Winter peas are great at producing food for plants underground AND food for people above ground. The shoots, flowers, and seed pods are edible!

Young, tender winter peas are one of the easiest cover crops to terminate. Their tender shoots quickly decompose when turned into soil!

TIME LINE

OCT-NOV PLANTING

Winter peas are specially adapted to grow in cool conditions. Broadcast seed throughout the Fall. Cover to protect from wildlife.

OCT - NOV ESTABLISHMENT

Winter peas are a winter-adapted legume that should continue to grow until hard frost sets in.

DEC - FEB DORMANCY

Winter peas are very cold hardy. In their dormant state, they can survive winter temps as low as 0 degrees F

FEB - JUNE N-FIXATION

Winter peas begin growing again at the first sign of Spring and begin to fix Nitrogen in the soil.

MAY - JUNE FLOWERING

Winter peas will start producing flowers in the Spring. If left alone, the flowers will become edible seed pods.

APRIL - JULY TERMINATION

Young, tender winter peas can easily be turned into the soil, but they can also be pulled and composted.

