

Bishop's Castle Community Seed Bank

Seed Saving: Peas

- Peas are almost entirely self pollinating, only very occasionally crossing with other plants.
- Set aside a section of row that is entirely for seed production, and make sure you sow at a time that will avoid pea moth
- To avoid physical mixing up of the seeds, separate different varieties of pea with another crop.
- Check the row from time to time as the peas grow, and pull up any plants that are weak or not true to type.



Collecting Seeds:

- Let the peas mature until the pods are brown and the seeds start to rattle.
- If the weather is very bad, pull up the whole plants and bring inside (for example hung upside down from the shed roof) once the pods start to wither, to ripen and dry further.
- Once the pods are really dry, shell the peas out.
- Dry the shelled peas further in a warm (but not hot) place, label with the variety and date, and store.

Seed Saving: Top Tips

- Only save open-pollinated varieties (not F1 Hybrids or GMOs).
- Save seed from healthy, strong mature plants
- Buildings, trees, and other barriers will limit insect flight patterns and wind pollination to a degree, but isolation cages can stop crossing.
- If on an open site such as an allotment, work with your neighbours to grow the same type of seed crop!
- Realseeds.co.uk and vitalseeds.co.uk provide lots of helpful resources and training.



Keeping Diversity Alive

Saving seed each season keeps the varieties and species alive, and allows the Seed Bank to grow and serve the community. These varieties are a part of our shared human heritage. Please keep them going. Content for this guide sourced from Realseeds.co.uk

The Bishop's Castle Community Seed Bank is an initiative of Food Forward BC, the Action Group driving our Community Food Resilience Strategy, and a part of the BC Climate Action Plan. Info from RealSeeds.co.uk

