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## GROWING SWEET PEAS

Getting the Very Best From This  
Beautiful Flower.

Location and Soil Suggested—Early  
Sowing Desirable—Good Support  
and Frequent Picking Necessary.  
(Contributed by Ontario Department of  
Agriculture, Toronto.)

**Location**—An open, sunny position in the garden suits them very well. Close up to a building or near to a close board fence facing the south is not a good place for them as the intense heat of the sun induces attacks of insect pests. An east, west, or north exposure close to a fence is not so objectionable, except perhaps a direct northern exposure. Near to an open wire fence or trellis fence is not objectionable.

**Soil**—A deep, fairly rich loamy soil is best. If the ground is poor or gravelly or heavy clay, dig a trench the length required from 12 to 15 inches deep and about 10 inches wide. Place about two inches in depth of well rotted barnyard manure or cow manure in the bottom of the trench, then fill the trench up with well enriched loamy soil. Deep digging is necessary for sweet peas even in good soil. Never sow sweet peas twice in succession in the same soil; a part of the soil at least should be renewed every year. Prepare trench or ground for sweet peas the previous fall if possible.

**When to Sow**—Sow in early in the spring as the ground can be worked. The seed may be soaked in lukewarm water before sowing for six or eight hours to hasten germination.

**How to Sow**—Make a drill about two inches in depth. Sow the seed about two inches apart. Cover with nearly two inches of fine soil. (The Spencer type of Sweet Pea is the best kind to sow.)

**Thinning**—Thin the plants when about six inches in height to three or four inches apart.

**Support**—Wide meshed chicken wire five feet in height, maple brush-wood or coarse twine may be used for support. Nothing made of coarse twine makes an ideal support, better than wire, as the plants cling to it better than to wire.

**Watering**—Water thoroughly in very dry weather. Draw a drill a few inches deep and about four inches from the row on each side. Pour water into these until the ground is thoroughly soaked. Watering in this way once every week or ten days is far more beneficial than frequent light surface waterings. Sprinkle the foliage with water under pressure from a fine sprinkler every day in hot dry weather to keep down insects, such as green aphid and red spider. Sprinkle the under side of the foliage especially. Tobacco and soap solutions are also good for insect pests.

**Picking Bloom**—Keep all the sprays of bloom picked off every second day to prevent seed from forming. If seed is allowed to form, the bloom will be inferior and the flowering season of short duration.

**Fertilizers**—A watering once or twice with liquid manure solution towards the end of August will help to keep the plants vigorous and productive late in the season.—The late War. Hunt, O. A. College, Guelph.

### Silo Facts.

In the silo you can store corn in a form in which practically every particle can be eaten.

Silage gives the effect of pasturing in winter; it is both palatable and succulent, and it also aids digestion in the dry-feeding season.

Animals fed silage are not more subject to tuberculosis, do not lose their teeth more quickly, and are not shorter-lived than animals fed other common kinds of feed.

The use of the silo often makes it possible to have corn that would otherwise be lost.

A good silo should be round, airtight, water-proof, have walls that are smooth inside, and be strong and durable.

A silo should be placed where it will give the greatest convenience in feeding and where it will be least exposed to extremely cold winds.

One hundred tons of silage will feed 25 cows 40 pounds of silage a day for 200 days.

A silo 14 feet in diameter and 32 feet high will hold 100 tons.

Silos of more than 100 tons capacity cost from \$2 to \$5 per ton, according to the type and material used in construction.

**The New Farm House and Trees.**

When planning to build a farm house it is well to select a location near good trees, so that their shade may be used and enjoyed by the family every day during the summer. It takes so long to grow good trees that existing ones should be cherished and utilized to the fullest extent. If trees must be planted they should not be placed directly in front of the farm house, but should be put somewhat to each side so as to make a frame through which a view of a portion of the front is obtained.

## WITH SHEEP IN SUMMER

Care of Weanlings and the Flock  
Generally.

Special Attention Pays—Frequent  
Change of Pasture Beneficial—  
How to Preserve the Fertility of  
Manure.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of  
Agriculture, Toronto.)

For best results lambs should be weaned at between four and five months. It has been found that under conditions prevailing during the hot dry months of mid-summer the ewes will drop off considerably in their milk flow. The lambs receive comparatively little nourishment, and it is better for both ewe and lamb for them to be separated. When the lambs are removed from the ewes they will miss little the small amount of milk they would receive, and will soon learn to depend upon pasture. They should receive the very best pasture available. Nothing fits in better than a patch of rape sown at the proper time, so as to be ready for pasture when the lambs are weaned. Care should be exercised in turning the lambs on the fresh rape to avoid bloating and probable death. Turn them in during the middle of the day when the rape leaves are absolutely dry and allow them to become accustomed to the change. A field of grass adjoining the rape pasture will give better results than the rape alone. If no rape is available fresh clover seeding or second growth clover will give satisfactory results. In addition to pasture a feed of grain once a day will push the lambs along to a good finish. At no time should it be necessary to feed over one-half pound of grain per day to each lamb while on pasture.

Frequent change of pasture is beneficial to, and relished by, all classes of stock, and this applies with special emphasis to the case of sheep. It is true for two reasons. Sheep are subject to parasitic diseases which may be prevented to a large extent by not pasturing on any one area for too great a length of time. In addition to this they are possibly more fastidious about their food than are some other farm animals. It is not practicable on every farm to arrange for a succession of pastures during the grazing season. However, the same area will sustain considerable more sheep if such an arrangement is feasible. Rye sown early in the fall furnishes a good deal of pasture in the late fall and early spring. After the rye is eaten off in the spring rape may be sown on this land and will come along for pasture in June or July. Alfalfa and red clover are satisfactory pasture crops and will serve until the rape is ready. An annual pasture consisting of one bushel each of wheat, oats and barley together with eight pounds of red clover provides a good pasture for the early summer months, and the clover coming along in the autumn will give a nice pickling. This annual pasture may be sown any time early in May. Without a great deal of additional labor it is possible to have a succession of crops ready for seeding throughout the entire season.—J. P. Sackville, O. A. College, Guelph.

### Breaking Up Broody Hens.

Neglect in breaking up broody hens means a serious reduction in the number of eggs produced by Indiana farm flocks.

Confinement of broody hens in a slat bottom coop has proved satisfactory. This coop should be covered on top with slat or wire sides and may be placed outside, preferably under a tree to insure shade. A slat bottom coop prevents fowls from becoming comfortable and these soon lose their broody traits.

Common practice is to place hens in the coop for three days, releasing them in the evening. If they return to the nest they are returned to "jail" for three more days. This usually breaks up the most stubborn sitters.

Removing the broody hens from the nest the first evening she sits is a very important factor in breaking up broodiness. If hens are allowed to be undisturbed a few days it requires more time to break up broodiness and this results in a longer period of non-production.

Nasturtiums do not require rich soil, in fact, if put on rich soil they will produce more vine than flowers.

The reproduction of fruit and vegetables at home relieves transportation difficulties and solves the marketing problem.

Extra good growth of musk melons may be had by putting a bushel or so of well rotted manure in the bottom of each hill. Plenty of water during warm dry weather also helps.

**Aunt Ada's Axioms:** Someone has said that a farm is a business with a home attached; but the best farms are homes with a business attached. Elm, maple, or even nut trees and fruit trees are good to plant along highways. The objection to fruit and nut trees is that they may be broken down by over-zealous collectors of fruit. This is not apt to happen if they are common on the highway.

## FEEDING OF NEW GRAIN

Is Apt to Cause Trouble to Live  
Stock.

Horses More Susceptible Than Cattle  
—Plus Do Better on It Than the  
Other Stock—Best Methods in  
Preservation of Hay.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of  
Agriculture, Toronto.)

Each year brings a certain amount of trouble through the feeding of new grain to live stock, and consequently greater care should be exercised to avoid digestive derangements.

The horse is generally considered a little more susceptible to digestive troubles following changes in feeding practice than are other classes of farm live stock. It is always well to make changes very gradually and carefully. The main grain feed of the horse in this country is oats, and new oats should always be fed with great care. Hard-worked horses should, if it is at all possible, be fed old oats, and the new grain left to dry and cure for a few weeks after threshing. At any rate to avoid colic, acute indigestion and inflammation new oats should at first form only a part of the grain ration, being mixed with old oats and possibly a little bran and the percentage of the new grain gradually increased until the horses are on full feed. Sudden changes from old to new grain are especially dangerous with the horse and particularly with the horse at heavy work and on a heavy concentrate ration. There is, of course, a difference due to the time of threshing. Grain which remains in stack or mow for several weeks and thus becomes dry and cured is not so dangerous as that threshed directly from the field or immediately after harvesting.

As a rule heavy feeding of grain is not practiced with cattle and sheep on pasture. Where such is the case, however, changing from old to new grain should be done with care and the substitution should be, if possible, gradual. If the ration must, of necessity, be composed entirely of newly-threshed grain it should at first be comparatively light and increased very gradually.

Pigs usually handle newly-threshed grain without much trouble, although if on very heavy rations when finishing for market a little care should be taken that they be not thrown off their feed. Newly-threshed grain is difficult to grind fine and is not easily stored and large quantities of the ground grain may not be stored in bulk as heating and musting will result, lowering the feeding value of the grain by rendering it unpalatable and less digestible. Musty grain is more dangerous than clean, new grain.

These points should be kept in mind. First make all changes from old to new grain gradually. Secondly, if no old grain is fed as part of the ration start the new grain in small quantities, gradually increasing until the desired quantity is reached. Feed no heated or musty grain.—Wade Toole, O. A. College, Guelph.

### People on Farms Live the Longest.

Life on the farm is the healthiest and safest, according to statistics compiled by the United States Bureau of Labor showing the average age at death in various occupations. The farmer and farm laborer live longer than other workers. This does not "seem longer," which, it will be remembered, is the joint in the old joke concerning the longevity of married folk contrasted with bachelors and spinsters—it is longer, and official research records prove it. Farmers live to the average age of 58.5 years, blacksmiths are given three years less of life, and masons and bricklayers die at an average age of 55. The list tapers down to bookkeepers and office assistants who are given an average life of no more than 36.5 years.

Bats in full flight in the dark will avoid threads stretched across their path.

### Remedies for Poison Ivy.

The American Botanist records that W. L. McAtee has collected a list of 244 alleged cures for "ivy" poisoning. Among the vegetable substances recommended to be taken internally are extracts or infusions of sweet fern, snake-root, pasque flower, acornite, spice bush, coffee, poison sumach (?), pipsissewa, yellow jasmine, belladonna and bryony. It is pointed out that "poison ivy" probably has a reputation for harmfulness all out of proportion to its abilities; a few people are rather severely poisoned by it, but the majority seem to be immune or nearly so. We should like to add that a great deal of supposed "ivy" poisoning may be due to other plants, since there are scores of plants that are capable of causing more or less severe dermatitis in susceptible people. Copious information on this subject was published in 1887 by Dr. J. C. White in his book "Dermatitis Venenata."