Drying and Saving Peas for Seed

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Completing the growing cycle by drying and saving peas for seed means you will never have to buy pea seeds again saving you money in the long run. This step by step guide shows how to dry and store your peas for the coming season.

Peas are grown during the cooler months in warmer climates and during the warmer months in cooler climates. When growing through the winter it is best to plant in the late fall so the peas are blooming during the early spring when the bees are active to pollinate the flowers.

Best Time to Collect Pea Seeds

The best time to collect pea seeds is towards the end of the growing season. When you notice fewer flowers forming on the vines it is best to let these pods fully mature and dry on the vine so the peas can be used as seed for the coming season.

Tools and Materials Needed

Drying Rack or Cooling Rack
Airtight Storage Container or Plastic Bag
Label

Instructions

Let the pea pods fully mature on the vine. It does not matter if the pods are short as the peas inside will still make viable seed.

When they begin to dry out, they can be picked then placed on a drying rack or bakers cooling rack to finish drying. Place in an area with good ventilation and out of direct sunlight.

Leave the pea pods to dry for two to three weeks. The pods will snap open easily revealing the dried seeds inside. Some seeds will still be tinged green while others will turn beige in color. As long as they feel hard and you have given them adequate time to dry then they will be ready to store.

Store your pea seeds in an airtight container or a plastic bag. Remove as much air as possible from the plastic bag before securing. Recycled glass jars with tight fitting lids can also be used to store seeds. Make sure they have been washed in warm soapy water then air dried before using.

Label the container with today’s date and the contents then store in a cool dark place with low humidity such as a pantry.
Dried Pea Seeds

How long can you store pea seeds?
Pea seeds can be stored for 2 years when placed in an airtight container in an area with low humidity. They may be viable past the 2-year mark but less seeds will germinate over time.

Can you eat pea seeds?
There is no reason why you can’t eat your dried pea seeds that you have collected yourself however pea seeds you buy may have been treated with chemicals so it is always best to plant these.

How do you rehydrate dried peas?
Put your peas in a bowl then place twice as much warm water over the top. Cover then leave to soak overnight before adding to your favorite dish. If they are still hard in the centre then they will need additional cooking time.