

GARDENING TIP

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Soaking seeds reduces planting to harvest time

This is the time of year to plant peas in most areas. If you are in a hurry, soak them for 2 or 3 hours in room temperature water before you plant them, they will sprout much faster. If you have time over night is better. For peas especially, I let them soak some times until there is a little root coming out before planting (3 or 4 days). But you have to be careful that they don't spoil by being in water that is too warm for too long. Soaking them in a cool place is best. Also be careful when you take them out of the water that you don't damage the outer skin or let them break in half.

You can reduce the growing time by up to a couple of weeks by this soaking method with most plants. It works with any seed that is large like peas, corn, beans or the like. Usually over night soaking is best.

Be aware that some seeds are coated with an anti-disease covering (like corn, it is usually bright red in

color). If you soak those seeds that will take away the protection they have given you with the coating.

If you have worms in your peas, it is normally because you planted them too late. Peas are frost resistant and will even grow with a little snow on them. The earlier you plant them the less likely you will be to have worms in them.

Planting times for your garden corps will of course be different in every area of the country. You can consult a local garden nursery store to know how early you can plant things in your areas. I have never found a nursery store that did not have a horticulturist on staff who was more than happy to help me with information like that. You can also get on line to see what the growing season is in your area. I just put "garden zones+growing" in the search engine and came up with lots of web pages. One for example that came up was

<http://www.gardenmart.com/growzone.shtml> You may be surprised at what else you will find.

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