Super Sugar Snap (65 days)

An heirloom variety, Amish Snap, requires 60 days from planting to maturity.

The sugar snap pea (Pisum sativum var. macrocarpon) is a member of the bean family. Sugar snap peas are like snow peas in that we eat the entire pod. A difference is that the pods of snow peas are flat and those of sugar snap peas are round.

Unlike beans, peas do not open when they are ripe or have a membrane in the pod. Most cultivars are climbing vines and need a trellis for support (Fig. 1). In seed catalogs, they are described as tall climbers.

**Varieties**

These varieties are best for Texas:

- Cascadia (60 days from planting to maturity)
- Premium (51 days)
- Sugar Ann (60 days)
- Sugar Bob (55 days)
- Super Sugar Snap (65 days)

An heirloom variety, Amish Snap, requires 60 days from planting to maturity.
Inoculants are sold in small packets at garden stores and via the Internet. They are especially useful in an area that is being planted for the first time.

Watering

Do not let the soil dry out but do not overwater. You may need to irrigate once a week if no rain has fallen.

Diseases

Fusarium wilt is the most common disease of sugar snap peas. Infected plants have yellow, wilting leaves, particularly the lower leaves.

Because peas are planted early in the season when the soil is still cold and moist, Fusarium wilt is likely to occur, especially if the soil does not drain well. To reduce the chances of Fusarium infection, incorporate abundant organic matter to the bed and improve soil aeration and drainage by preparing the soil well.

Harvesting

Harvest when the individual peas have grown to the size of BBs, or when the pods...
have reached their full length. This stage is usually reached 5 to 7 days after flowering.

Pick the peas at least every other day to ensure that the pods are sweet and free of fibers. As soon as you discover an overgrown pod that you missed earlier, remove it to keep the plant blooming and producing longer.

The pods can be stored in a plastic bag in the refrigerator for up to 2 weeks. Unlike fresh green peas, these pods deteriorate only slightly in quality when stored.