FLOWERS · A SUNNY OUTDOOR POT WITH A SECURELY ANCHORED TRELLIS

# Let's grow sweet pea.

*Lathyrus odoratus 'Mammoth Choice Mix'*

This plan is for **Mammoth Choice Mix sweet pea**

**Is this your plant?** Choose annual Lathyrus odoratus Mammoth Choice Mix for these three climbing plants. Dwarf sweet peas and perennial Lathyrus need different layouts. Ornamental sweet peas are poisonous; keep them separate from edible peas.

Fragrant flowers climbing beside your door.

**20-gallon planter** **6 seeds → 3 plants**

**Before you start**

Grow for cool spring weather in cold-winter areas, or sow in fall where the ground does not freeze. Secure the trellis before sowing; ornamental sweet peas are not edible peas.

By jennyzhuang

Sources checked September 26, 2026 View sources ↗

LIGHT

**Sun in a cool season**

Aim for at least 6 hours of sun during a cool growing season; prolonged heat can shorten flowering.

WATER

**Likes even moisture**

Keep the seed zone moist; once leafy, water when the upper inch begins drying.

FEEDING

**Feed after the starter mix**

Begin with the mix's nutrients; add measured feed when flower buds appear later.

Not edible peas: all parts, including seeds and pods, are poisonous. Keep away from children and pets likely to taste plants.

BEFORE YOU START

## Your little kit.

- ✓ 6 'Mammoth Choice Mix' sweet-pea seeds
- ✓ One draining 20-gallon planter; about 3 cubic feet of fresh potting mix for the example pot, with a little left after leaving watering space
- ✓ A trellis with 6 ft above the soil, independently secured; soft plant ties

**THE SOIL**

Miracle-Gro Organic Potting Mix (US, with starter nutrients; check your bag for its additional-feeding directions)

Start with what's on this list. Add plant food only when the feeding section says it's needed.

YOUR SIMPLE GROWING PLAN

## One pot. Here's the plan.

A sunny outdoor pot with a securely anchored trellis. Start with **seeds**.

THE POT

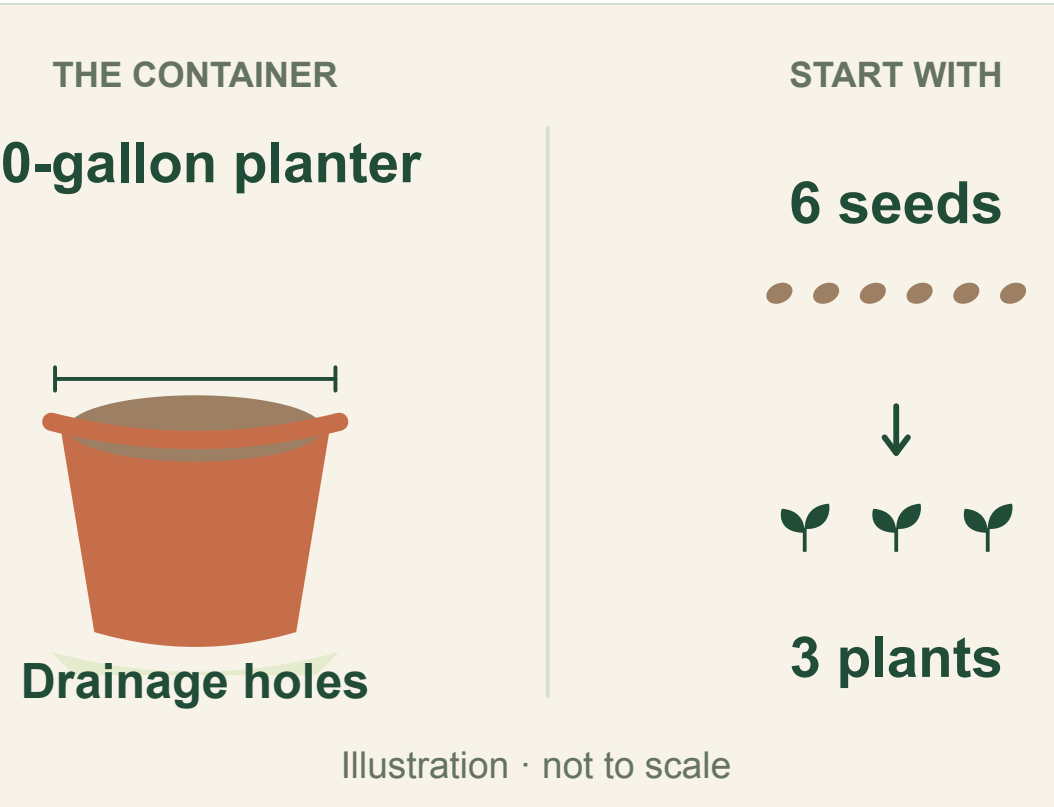
### 20-gallon planter

The example 20-gallon planter is about 20 inches wide × 15½ inches tall. Three plants here are a roomy editorial layout, not a required minimum pot size. Add an independently anchored 6-ft trellis above the mix.

HOW MANY

### 6 seeds → 3 plants

Sow 2 seeds at each of 3 spots, 8 inches apart. Keep 1 plant at each spot.




**20-gallon planter · 6 seeds → 3 plants** The example 20-gallon planter is about 20 inches wide × 15½ inches tall. Three plants here are a roomy editorial layout, not a required minimum pot size. Add an independently anchored 6-ft trellis above the mix. Sow 2 seeds at each of 3 spots, 8 inches apart. Keep 1 plant at each spot. Original illustration; not to scale.

01

## Secure the climbing frame

Anchor a trellis behind the pot before sowing; a fabric pot alone cannot hold a tall frame steady in wind. Fill with fresh potting mix and leave about 1 inch below the rim. Moisten the mix and let it drain.

02

## Sow three pairs

Make 3 planting spots in a triangle, 8 inches apart, within reach of the support. Sow 2 seeds per spot, ½ inch deep, and water gently.

03

## Keep the strongest three

Keep the seed zone lightly moist. Johnny's gives about 14–21 days for germination at 55–65°F, so do not assume a week without sprouts means failure. Once true leaves appear, snip the weaker seedling at each spot, leaving 3 plants. Avoid pulling on neighboring roots.

04

### Help the vines climb

Guide shoots to the trellis with loose ties. Pinch the growing tip once at 6–8 inches tall for branching. Pick flowers regularly before large seedpods form.

Help with the setup: drainage holes and saucers · potting mix vs. garden soil.

## Other ways to start

### Use three young plants instead

Choose 3 nursery seedlings labeled Mammoth Choice Mix, or start your own seed in deep cells about 4–5 weeks before your local planting-out window. Sow ½ inch deep. Move one healthy seedling into each of the 3 final positions at the same 8-inch spacing. Keep the root ball intact and plant at its former soil level. Acclimate indoor-grown plants gradually. A dwarf bush sweet pea needs a different layout.

YOUR EVERYDAY ROUTINE

## Water & fertilizer at a glance.

**WATER WHEN**

Keep the shallow seed zone moist. Once leafy, check daily; water as the top inch starts drying, then drain. Wait if wet.

**FERTILIZER**

**Jack's Classic Blossom Booster (US 10-30-20)**

**AMOUNT**

**1 level tablespoon in 1 US gallon of water**

**WHAT THAT AMOUNT COVERS**

Mix into water. Apply only enough solution to wet this pot and drain; the gallon is a mixing batch, not a per-pot dose.

**HOW OFTEN TO FEED**

Every 10 days while buds and flowers develop.

**WHEN TO START OR PAUSE**

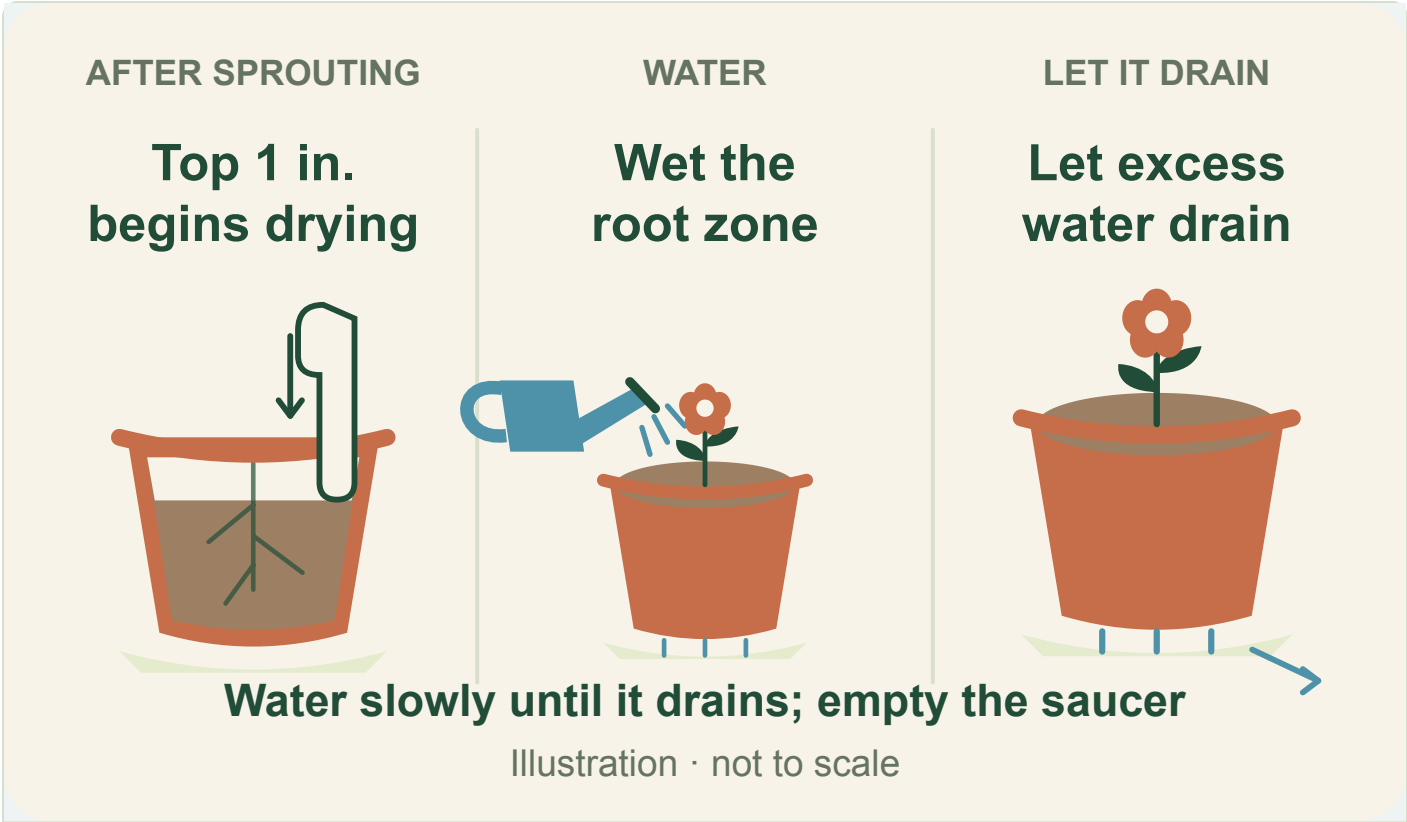
Check the potting-mix bag for when extra feeding is due. Begin only once rooted plants have buds; delay if wet, pause during heat stress, and stop when active flowering growth ends.

The concentration and 10-day interval follow the manufacturer's outdoor directions. Use one feeding program and follow your purchased US package.

01 / EVERYDAY CARE

## When to water.

**Until germination, check the seed spots each day and keep the ½-inch-deep sowing zone lightly moist with gentle watering.** Do not soak the whole large pot again just because its surface changes color. Once plants are rooted and leafy, check daily: when the top inch begins drying, water slowly until excess drains. Wait if the mix is still wet. Keep the root zone evenly moist through flowering and never leave the pot standing in water.




**Check before watering.** Keep the shallow seed zone moist. Once leafy, check daily; water as the top inch starts drying, then drain. Wait if wet. Original illustration; not to scale.

> **The easy rule**
>
> Check first. Water only when the plant needs it.

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02 / PLANT FOOD

## Exactly what to feed it.

**Use the nutrients already in the named potting mix at sowing.** Check your actual bag for when to begin additional feeding; a claim that a mix feeds for up to two months is not an instruction to wait exactly two months. Do not add a second full feeding program at planting. Begin the flowering feed below only when extra food is due and buds are visible, not on newly sprouted seedlings.




**1 level tablespoon in 1 US gallon of water** Mix into water. Apply only enough solution to wet this pot and drain; the gallon is a mixing batch, not a per-pot dose. Every 10 days while buds and flowers develop. Check the potting-mix bag for when extra feeding is due. Begin only once rooted plants have buds; delay if wet, pause during heat stress, and stop when active flowering growth ends. Original illustration; not to scale.




US PRODUCT REFERENCE

Jack's Classic

## Blossom Booster

10-30-20

Soluble: mix into water

Check the official US product ↗

Illustrated reference; check the manufacturer's current packaging and US label.

A SPECIFIC US PRODUCT

### Jack's Classic Blossom Booster (US 10-30-20)

Dissolve 1 level tablespoon of Jack's Classic Blossom Booster 10-30-20 in 1 US gallon of water. Once extra feeding is due, apply at the roots every 10 days while buds and flowers develop. This is the manufacturer's outdoor concentration at the longer end of its 7–10-day interval. Apply only enough solution to wet the pot and drain; a gallon is the mixing batch, not a dose for each plant or an instruction to empty it into the pot. Delay if wet, pause during heat stress, and stop when active flowering growth ends. Do not combine full-rate feeds. Follow your actual US package.

**Check the manufacturer's product page ↗**

This is one usable US flowering-plant product and its manufacturer dilution, not a claim that 10-30-20 is the only suitable formula. RHS describes a different container option using high-potassium tomato feed; follow that product's own label if choosing it instead.

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03 / WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

## First flowers and vine height

Johnny's lists Mammoth Choice Mix at about 75–85 days from sowing and 5–6 ft tall; home conditions change both. The supplier describes this selection as more heat-tolerant than many sweet peas. It is still a cool-season annual: a hot, dry spell may shorten its display, and extra fertilizer cannot guarantee summer flowers.

### Choose a cool growing season

In cold-winter regions, start for cool spring growth; established seedlings tolerate light frost. In mild areas where the ground does not freeze, fall sowing can give spring flowers. Midsummer sowing is not a nationwide default.

For regional planting windows, find your local Cooperative Extension office ↗.

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## Something looking off?

### Are these the peas I can eat?

No. Mammoth Choice Mix is ornamental Lathyrus odoratus, and all parts—including seeds and pods—are poisonous. Edible garden peas are Pisum sativum. Keep these separately labeled and do not plant ornamental sweet peas beside edible peas or taste a pod to identify it.

### Flowers slowed down as summer got hot. What should I do?

Check moisture and keep removing spent flowers while the vine is still growing. Mammoth can tolerate more heat than some sweet peas, but prolonged heat can still end its season. Pause feed on a heat-stressed plant; if the vines are exhausted, clear them and plan another crop for the next suitable cool season.

### I see lots of pods and fewer flowers.

Snip developing pods from their small stems and resume picking flowers or removing faded blooms regularly. Leaving pods to ripen can bring flowering to an earlier end. Deadheading can help an actively growing vine, but it cannot guarantee another flush during summer heat.

## Tending vines and starting fresh next season

### Guide shoots, check ties, and pick flowers

Check moisture, guide stray shoots, and loosen tight ties. Picking a few flowers for a vase also removes blooms before they make pods.

### Remove exhausted annual vines

This is fragrant annual L. odoratus, not perennial L. latifolius. Remove exhausted vines and start fresh in the next suitable cool season.

# Help with your next step.

**Set up your first container**

You need help with drainage, potting mix, or checking when a pot needs water.

**Check the starter food in your mix**

Read the bag before adding a flowering fertilizer; the first top-up depends on what is already in the mix.

BEHIND THIS GUIDE

# Where the advice comes from.

Plant care is based on the sources below. Planting layouts and beginner routines combine that guidance into one practical plan; they are editorial choices, not results from a Plant Care Steps growing trial.


- Johnny's: Mammoth Choice Mix height, flowering estimate, and safety ↗
  https://www.johnnyseeds.com/flowers/sweet-peas/mammoth-choice-mix-sweet-pea-seed-1408.html
- Johnny's: sowing, spacing, and pinching ↗
  https://www.johnnyseeds.com/growers-library/flowers/sweet-peas/sweet-peas-key-growing-information.html
- Renee's Garden: US timing and transplanting ↗
  https://www.reneesgarden.com/blogs/gardening-resources/growing-sweet-peas-starting-early-indoors-and-transplanting-technique-tips-with-photos
- RHS: sweet-pea container care ↗
  https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/lathyrus/growing-guide
- Maryland Extension: container care ↗
  https://extension.umd.edu/resource/growing-vegetables-containers-and-salad-tables
- Johnny's: example planter dimensions ↗
  https://www.johnnyseeds.com/tools-supplies/seed-starting-supplies/grow-bags/smart-pot-natural-20-gal.-8374.html
- NC State: cool-season sweet peas and separation from edible peas ↗
  https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/lathyrus-odoratus/
- Iowa State: container moisture checks and thorough watering ↗
  https://yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu/how-to/care-plants-growing-containers
- Manufacturer: US fertilizer formula and application directions ↗
  https://www.jrpeters.com/copy-of-draft-resources-for-garden-ce
- JR Peters: Blossom Booster product identity ↗
  https://www.jrpeters.com/online-store/Blossom-Booster-10-30-20-p184837332
- Manufacturer: starter feed in the named potting mix ↗
  https://scottsmiraclegro.com/en-us/brands/miracle-gro/products/potting-mix/miracle-gro-organic-potting-mix/78951430.html


Something needs updating? Suggest a correction


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Compiled with AI assistance. These first-edition guides have not yet had an independent horticultural review. Read our editorial approach.