Ian Simpson	Address 4 Canmore Street, Kinghorn, Fife KY3 9RH	Mar	
Tel (01592) 890	email fcshome@talktalk.net	2021	
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Growing Exhibition Peas – Ian Simpson

Materials	3½" pots, M3 compost, Manure, 8ft posts, 8ft or 10ft canes, Medium gauge wire, Anti-slip Clips, Blood/Fish/Bone, Slug Pellets, Green Garden Twine, Chempak No. 8 & 4, Mildew Deterrent Bumper or BAC-OFF.					
Pea Varieties	Show Perfection, Turners Spring or Dorian					
Bed preparation	Trench – 12" deep x 9" wide. Manure – 4" layer in bottom of trench - water in. Canes – 18" apart. Top dress with Blood/Fish/Bone at a rate of 1½ oz per cane, 3 to 4 weeks prior to transplanting time.					
Sowing	Peas started off in a 3½" pots in Levington's M3 compost. Sow peas 2" deep. Pea germinates approximately 11 days after sowing.					
Planting Out	Transplant into the prepared Pea beds 27 days after sow date.					
Feeding & Maintenance	Feed with Chempak No. 8 (Low Nitrogen) 1 scoop to 2 Gallons water at every watering after first flower has set. 2 Gallon feeds 15 plants. If pods are slow to fill out, change to Chempak No. 4 (High Potash) at 2 scoops to 2 Gallons water at every watering.					
Harvesting & Staging	Cut selected pods as close to the show date as possible. Handle pods by the stem only to maintain its "bloom". Always take a couple of spare pods with you just in case.					
Problems	Wind – erect a wind break Aphid attack – Spray with eco- friendly Shield Plant Wash or Bug Clear or similar insecticide. Mildew – Spray with Bumper (at 3ml per Litre) or eco-friendly BAC-OFF (at 5 ml per Litre) every week from the end of July. Cut worm – Protect young plants with a cardboard collar (toilet roll core) and sprinkle corn meal(polenta) around plant/collar					
Timings (grown outside)	Each plant should produce between 10 & 12 pods by the time the plant reaches the 7ft mark. 10th pod reaches optimum size 106 days from sow date					
	5th pod reaches optimum size 96 days from sow date					
1	1st pod will "go over" 93 days from sow date 7 days after optimum size					
	1st pod reaches optimum size 86 days from sow date, 35 days from flower stage					
	1st flower appears 51 days from sow date					