

ASPARAGUS PEA



Noted by Gerard in 1596. "It was formerly cultivated as an esculent plant, for the green pods, which are said to be still eaten in some of our Northern counties, but they are very coarse. This plant is now chiefly cultivated in flower-gardens for ornament. It is a native of Sicily, where Ray found it in the hills above Messina; and was cultivated in 1596 by Gerard.

Parkinson calls it *Crimson-blossomed* or *square-codded* pease. In Johnson's edition of Gerard's *Herbal* it is named *Square crimson-velvet* Pease. Ray called it *Square Codded Vetch*. None of these authors speak of the pod's being esculent. Clusius says the seeds were frequently sent out of Italy under the name of *Sandalida*"

Gardener's and Botanist's Dictionary - Mr Philip Miller - 1807

"A curious pea-like vegetable with a decorative habit of growth, reddish-brown flowers and rectangular pods, which should be gathered when an inch long and cooked whole."

The Compleat Seedsman's Monthly Calendar . 1738

The unusual and attractive cinnamon-red pea-like flowers make it an interesting addition to the flower garden as well as to the kitchen garden. Sown in open ground after the second week in May. **40 seeds £1.55p**

17 Seeds per Gram.

Average Duration of Germination Power: 5 years

PEAS

First Early

American Wonder 1878. Bliss "...a cross between *Little Gem* & *Champion* of England. 8 to 10 ins. in height & comes ready for table in 5 weeks from planting." **200 seeds £1.55p - 2 packs £2.75p**

Gradus Bred by Laxton's and introduced around 1887. "Without doubt the most distinct, and best early wrinkled pea yet introduced. It ripens like *William I.*, but the pods are the size of *Duke of Albany*, with large wrinkled peas of *Ne Plus Ultra*, colour and quality is alike good for table or exhibition." To 4 feet. E W King's 1898

300 seeds £1.45p - 2 packs £2.50p

Little Marvel. (*Improved American Wonder*) 1900. To 18 ins. "One of the earliest of the wrinkled seeded sorts. Remains in prime picking condition a week longer than most sorts. The vines are 15 ins high, heavy, with dark green pods usually set in pairs. The pods are filled with from 7 to 8 very dark green peas of high quality. One of the most satisfactory home garden peas."

300 seeds £1.55p - 2 packs £2.75p

Nain tres hative d'Annonay. Very Old French heirloom. Early and vigorous with six to eight peas per pod. Round seed. **200 seeds £1.65p**

Meteor or **Petit Provençal.** By 1937. "Very dwarf but very hardy. Can be sown at any time from September in

one year to June the next. Only grows one foot high. A good drying Pea". Sow in late October in Northern counties, and in early November in the South. To 18 inches.

300 seeds £1.45p - 2 packs £2.50p

Pilot. 1904. Tall. "...deep green pods, & on account of its hardy constitution & the seed being round it may be sown very early with the certainty of a crop. It is a vigorous branching plant growing 3 ft in height, bearing a large proportion of the pods in pairs. 76 days.

300 seeds £1.45p - 2 packs £2.50p

Prince Albert. (*Syn Early Kent*) Although probably introduced before 1837, the following advert (dated 1842) is the first reference to the Prince Albert Pea to appear in the press:-

"CORMACK & OLIVER SEEDSMEN and NURSERYMEN, New Cross near the Croydon railway Station and Bedford Conservatory, Covent Garden. London have the honour to offer to the notice of Noblemen, Gentlemen and others, the above NEW PEA, as one of

the earliest and best sorts extant; in proof thereof, a quantity put into open earth on the 14th of March last was ready for use the 25th April following, being only "forty-two days from the period of sowing to the date of gathering for the table" it is moreover a good bearer of excellent flavour and highly advantageous for early forcing. Packets containing a quart 5s each.

Mr William Thompson (*Gardener's Assistant* - 1859) suggests that the Prince Albert Pea is a sub-variety of the *Early Frame* form of the *Tall White* peas. Despite the following comments by the learn'd Mr Heydrick, by many considered to be synonymous with *Dickson's First & Best* and *Caractacus*, and, It would appear, many others

Caractacus was advertised in 1865, by Waite, with notes "stock exhausted", so it undoubtedly originated earlier. One commentator says it was carefully selected by Waite from Daniel O'Rourke, another that it is *Dillistone Prolific* type, but *Denaiffe* says it always yielded better than *Daniel O'Rourke* or *Prince Albert*

200 seeds £1.65p

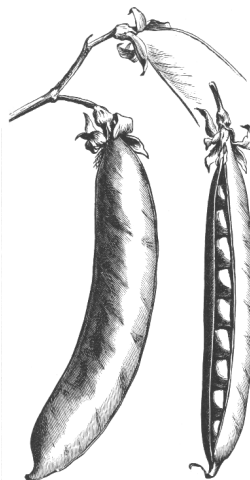
Serpette d'Auvergne à grain blanc (White Scimitar.) By 1833 To 4 feet.

"Commencing to bloom at about the 12th axil. Pods long and slender, at first slightly curved backwards, then becoming straighter and finally curved forwards in the shape of a pruning knife. Contains between 9 and 11 seeds. Sown February 23rd it was fit to use 21st June."

200 seeds £1.65p

Second Early

THE ROOTS IF VEGETABLES: Carter's Daisy or Small Telephone. Introduced 1892. About 2 feet high. Pods



usually in pairs, large, straight, containing five to nine seeds which are large, compressed, wrinkled of fine quality and flavour..

"Vines 18 to 20 inches high, bearing pods, broad, straight and about 4 inches long; pale green colour, and well filled with large Peas of excellent flavour. Ready for picking from 62 to 65 days from planting."

Said to be a cross between Stratagem and Telephone.

200 seeds £1.65p

Hurst's Kelvedon Wonder. Introduced in 1925. Wrinkled Seed. *"Perhaps the best of the dwarf Marronfats. 18 inches. Grand for small gardens and allotments"*. For sowing in March. To 18 inches. A crop for picking in September may be achieved by a planting in June or July. The first of the "Kelvedon" strain of peas.

300 seeds £1.45p - 2 packs £2.50p

Lincoln. 1884.. *" Vines are dwarf, running 18 inches in height. Pods are slightly curved and contain eight to nine peas of very fine quality. A very productive and satisfactory variety for the home or market garden."*

300 seeds £1.45p

2 packs £2.50p

Senator. By 1894. *"A cross between the varieties Prince of Wales & Giant Marrow... a very remarkable cropper, the pods being produced mostly in pairs, they are of good size, and contain about 9 large peas which are sweet in flavour. 2½ to 3ft in height."*

200 seeds £1.65p

Serpette Vert a Rame (Laxton's Supreme?) By 1872. Vilmorin has these two varieties as the same. *"Plants robust in appearance and character Pods very large, long, broad but scarcely so well filled as they appear, containing from 7 to 9 peas. Olive-green ripe seeds indented. A large and very handsome Pea. Sown 23rd February fit for use 9th June."*

RHS Journal 1872

200 seeds £1.65p

Téléphone à rames (Tall Telephone). 3 to 4 feet and *"a sport from Telegraph or resulted from an accidental cross of it, and was selected from that variety about 1878 by Carter's."*

200 seeds £1.65p

Main Crop

Alderman, or Admiral Dewey. 1891. Selected by Laxton's from Duke of Albany *"Late, tall, large podded variety, 5 feet tall. Producing dark green, long, well-formed pods which are ideal for exhibition purposes. Peas are large, sweet, and of an exceptional quality. Home garden*

variety that will not stand up under an intense period of drought." To 5 feet.

300 seeds £1.45p - 2packs £2.50p

Mangetout or Sugar Pea

Carouby de Maussane. Mangetout. Tall with Purple flowers. Almost certainly 19th century. Excellent taste. Large pods up to 4 inches long.

300 seeds £1.45p - 2 packs £2.50p

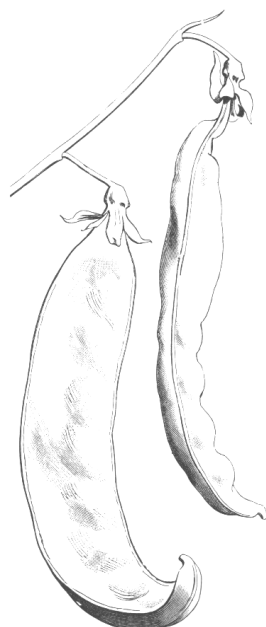
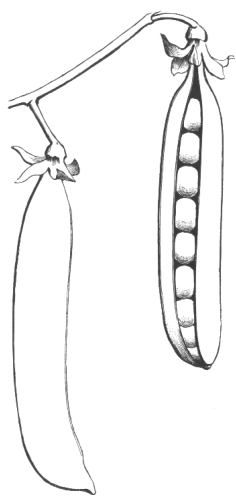
Cornes de Belier, Tall White Sugar or Large Crooked Sugar By 1859. *"About 6 feet and rather late. Pods very large, broad, flat, crooked and something like a ram's head; tender when young so that they can be snapped in two like the young pod of a kidney bean when they are fit for use. The sides exhibit prominent marks where pushed out by the seeds, even at an early stage if growth."* 1859

200 seeds £1.65p

Sugar Pea de Grace or Dwarf Dutch Sugar. Known to have been in cultivation since before 1859, by virtue of its inclusion in the 1st edition of the Gardener's Assistant as Dwarf Sugar de Grace.

300 seeds £1.65p

Others



Ezetha's Krombek Blauschok. (*Purple-podded*) By 1882
(Album Benary) "*Distinguished from all other varieties of pea by the very deep purple colour of its pods which they retain when dried.*"

100 seeds £1.65p - 200 seeds £3.00p

CULTIVATION. *Varies from type to type but as a general rule:- Sow in February on well prepared ground in double rows some 4 feet asunder. First early Peas may also be planted in November, December and January on a dry, sloping, sheltered border, Be sure to provide sticks or nets for the emerging seedlings to climb upon.*

20-55 Seeds per Gram.

Average Duration of Germination Power 3 years

