

THE WALL BED HAS YOUR STORAGE NEEDS COVERED.



really. Do you have a room dedicated to housing a bed for the occasional guest? The Wall bed takes up minimal space when not in use and are the comfortable alternative to sofa beds. Incorporate one into any place in the home and your guests will sleep in comfort while you make the most of your space. **Call us to find out how.**

organised
INTERIORS

For bookings or enquiries
1300 553 205 or 3252 4227

Showroom 200 Abbotsford Road, Bowen Hills
9am-5pm Mon-Fri & 9am-1pm Sat

www.organisedinteriors.com.au to view the image gallery

IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES

Bedroom Furniture | Wardrobes | Living & Lounge Rooms | Libraries & Home Offices | Garage & Linen | AND MORE.

46 brisbanenews.com.au | MAY 19 - 25, 2010

garden **51**

WITH JENNI BIRD



CROPPING UP ... save some freezer space and plant now for a healthy crop of peas within as little as six weeks

Mind your peas

Dig in and prepare to eye your pods for one of the sweetest treats

Have you seen that ad on television where the little girl tells her farmer grandad that real peas come from the freezer? He sets her straight on the fact that they first come from the pod, but I still think it's sad that some kids don't have any idea of the work that goes into producing food for the table.

Peas are an easy way to enthuse children about the miracle of germination. Peter Cundall, former presenter of *Gardening Australia*, is fond of telling people how his interest in growing stuff was sparked when his mother gave him a few soaked dried peas that had sprouted. He planted the peas in the garden and visited them every day to watch their progress.

It doesn't take much to generate a crop of juicy peas and autumn's cooler days mean the temperature is right for planting. The soil should be well drained and deeply cultivated. If you're on the ball, you would have added a dusting of lime, aged manure and a general purpose fertiliser a few months ago.

If that task slipped your mind, dig a trench that's deep enough so the roots won't reach the bottom for a while, then sprinkle in the fertiliser and manure. Backfill and plant your seeds after dusting them with fungicide.

Make furrows 2.5cm deep and lightly press seeds into the crevice, leaving 3-5cm between plants and 1.5-2m between rows, depending on the height of the variety you're growing. Then rake about 4cm of soil over the seeds, tamping it down with the back of the rake.

All peas need strong supports to grow, although dwarf varieties, which can also be grown in pots, are best left to cling to twiggy branches or wire netting.

Young peas attract birds, so protect seedlings by covering with wire netting, spray mildew with fungicide, and surround the plants with broken eggshells to deter slugs and snails.

There are hundreds of varieties of peas beyond what's found in supermarket freezers. The snow pea's blue or white flowers add to the attraction of this plant, which had been grown in France for at least a century before it was discovered by foodies and made popular in the 1970s. It's usually eaten at an immature stage, pod and all, but can be left longer to harvest the peas themselves.

For extra colour and exceptional flavour, sow some Purple Podded Dutch, which is a climber and has some resistance to powdery mildew.

W.F. Massey is a shelling variety that matures early in the season. Petit Provencal is a French heirloom that's harvested very early for its tender tiny peas and edible tendrils. And the Yukomo Giant snow pea grows to 2.5m tall, has purple flowers, and pods that can be 14cm long.

A few rules for planting peas: don't plant them anywhere near members of the onion family; they grow well with radish, cucumber, carrots, sweet corn and especially potatoes; put tomatoes in the same spot after the peas have finished; and try to not snack on too many pods while you're gardening.



BEN FRENCH 29
// LANDSCAPE
DESIGNER, YARDS,
WYNNUM

DESCRIBE YOUR GARDEN.

It's highly influenced by permaculture principles and materials have been sourced from waste or recycled products. Just about all of the plants are edible.

FAVOURITE GARDEN TOOL?

I do like my mini-excavator the best. It's used for preparing garden beds, moving earth and mulch, digging trenches and has a comfy seat for eating lunch.

GARDENING TRIUMPHS?

Children love being involved in making new gardens, and I often visit them post-construction to find them making the most of their new outdoor space.

ANY DISASTERS IN THE GARDEN?

Brush turkeys, which can't distinguish between new and old gardens.

TIP FOR OTHER GARDENERS?

Enjoy your creations.

YOUR FAVOURITE PLANT?

The tropical frangipani *Plumeria obtusifolia* because I love seeing such a beautiful vibrant perfumed tree in summer reveal its multi-branching structure during winter.

JENNI BIRD