



PLANT FACT SHEET

Lathyrus latifolius L.

GENUS *Lathyrus* FAMILY Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Perennial sweet pea, Broad-leaved everlasting pea, Everlasting pea, Pink perennial pea

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Seeds, pod

The pods and shoots are boiled as a vegetable.

The seeds are roasted.

DESCRIPTION

A climber which grows 1.5-3 m high. It keeps growing from year to year. It has a deep tough root system. The stems are winged. The leaves are blue-green. There are 2 leaflets. They are opposite and sword shaped. They are 3-10 cm long by 1-4 cm wide. They have a small sharp tip at the end. The leaf stalk has wings. There is a tendril at the end of the leaf stalk. It is usually branched. The flowers are pink and in clusters. There are 3-14 flowers in a group. The stalk is 3-15 cm long. The petals are magenta colour. The pods are narrowly oblong. They are 5-10 cm long and 0.6-1 cm wide. There are 10-15 seeds. The pods are smooth and light brown. The seeds are rough and with a net like pattern. They are 6 mm long.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It is frost hardy. In the tropics it is grown at high altitudes. In Argentina it grows below 500 m above sea level. It suits hardiness zones 5-9.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds or rhizomes.

NOTES

There are about 150 *Lathyrus* species. It can be invasive.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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