

## Growing and Seed Saving: Peanuts

Adapted from: <https://annapolisseed.com/pages/growing-and-seed-saving-peanuts>

Ontario has a small commercial peanut growing industry, and yes, we can grow peanuts in the Maritimes. [Annapolis Seeds](#) have been growing Valencia peanuts since 2009 with seed from Ontario. These are well adapted to our local growing conditions and called Annapolis Select Peanut.

Peanuts love heat sun, and well drained fertile soil. They have difficulty sending pegs into heavy clay soil. They can be started early indoors and transplanted out when the soil has warmed (early June) or direct seeded. The plants need similar spacing to bush beans, about 3-4" apart, and at least 12-18" between rows. At Hayes Farm, the peanuts were planted 8 "apart. In mid-summer, at 8"-12" high and flowering, they were hilled to provide looser soil for the peanuts to develop in. Pegs develop from the yellow flowers and reach down into the soil. The peanut pods form on these pegs, like subterranean bean pods. Even though the peanuts develop in the ground, they are not a root crop, the pods grow off the stems just like other legumes. As a legume, they also help to improve the soil. Covering against early frost will help ensure a better harvest.

**To Harvest:** On a dry day, loosen the soil around the plants with a fork and pull the plant out. Shake off extra soil and lay them in the sun to dry. In a well-ventilated area hang or leave in open crates to dry and cure (beware of squirrels !! and birds !!). Remove pods from roots once dry and continue to cure for several weeks. They will mold very easily so good ventilation and a dry environment is important. As they cure, they will change from a moist pea-like raw veg to a nutty mature peanut. They can then be roasted, sprouted or eaten raw. When just picked they can be boiled in the shell and eaten like edamame soybeans.

**Un-developed peanut**



**Harvest, drying on table**

