



Gardening
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Bitter-vetch

Lathyrus linifolius var montanus Also known as: **Sweet pea**

Rating: 0.0 (0 votes)

This description is for **Bitter-vetch** (*Lathyrus linifolius var montanus*):

Lathyrus linifolius var montanus or bitter-vetch is a hardy plant that grows in woodlands and hedges. It grows wild across much of Europe. It has narrow green leaves that grow in pairs along the stalk. The flowers are a bright purple and pink colour, with two petals, similar in shape to a snapdragon, with a curved lower 'lip'. It's an easy plant to grow. It will grow in moist and well-drained soil and prefers a neutral or acid soil. The seeds can be cooked in the same way as you would treat sweet chestnuts, and the root is also edible. You can serve it boiled or roasted. It has a sweet flavour and it's highly nutritious. It will grow in partial shade but prefers the sun.



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Plant	Environment	Usage
Known dangers? yes	Acidity Acidic Neutral Alkaline	Standard category Flowers & bulbs Perennials
Dangers: comments Avoid eating seeds, or risk having mild stomach upset.	Hardiness zone Z6-9	Grown for Attractive Flowers

Plant	Environment	Usage
Height [m] 1.5 - 2	Heat zone H9-6	Creative category Kid Approved Fast growing Fine fragrant For Beginners Colours Show-offs For birds & bees
Spread [m] 2	Winter temperatures [°C] -23 - -1	Garden type Cottage garden
Dominant flower colour Purple	Heat days 45 - 150	Garden spaces Cut flowers Banks and slopes Walls, trellises and pergolas Borders
Flower Fragrance Yes, let it smell	Moisture well-drained	Gardening expertise beginner
Flowering seasons Early spring Mid spring Late spring Early summer	Soil type sandy Clay chalky loams	Time to reach full size 1 to 2 years
Foliage in summer Grey-green	Sun requirements Full sun Partial shade	
Foliage in Autumn Grey-green	Exposure Exposed Sheltered	
Propagation methods seed		
Growth habit Climbing		