

Native Seeds/SEARCH Gardeners' Network
Cowpea (Black-eyed Pea) Information Form

Please fill out the following questions for each cowpea variety that you grew. When applicable, all measurements should be metric. Weight can be in lbs. as it's easily converted to grams or kilos.

Catalog No/Crop name _____

Date planted: _____ Date transplanted into garden (if applicable): _____

Date of 1st germination: _____ No. seeds planted _____ No. seeds germinated (date): _____

Did the crop receive full sun, partial sun, or full shade? _____

Date of first flower: _____ Date of 50% flowering: _____

Date first fruit produced: _____

What color are the flowers? _____ Do the dry pods have any markings? _____

Date of first dry pods: _____ How tall is the plant at maturity? _____

Date of 1st harvest: _____ Date of last harvest: _____

Total weight (or number) of fruit produced throughout the season (approx.): _____

What form was the plant (viney, sprawling, compact bush, etc)? _____

Did you provide a trellis or some support? How? _____

How do the immature, green peas taste? _____

How do the cooked (dry) peas taste? _____ Are they easily shelled? _____

Were the plants subject to any unusual or particularly harsh weather (hail, hard rain, early frost or freezing etc.)?

When? How did they fare? _____

Were there any problems with disease, fungus, insects, or other pests? How did plants respond? Did you use anything to treat the problem? How well did it work? _____

Please provide an overall description of how you grew this crop, including a brief description of how you watered (hose, drip, rain only, etc.) and about how often (i.e., did it experience some drought, weekly soakings), whether it needed trellising, was it intercropped and with what, did it need extra shade, did the grasshoppers seem to like it particularly, etc.

Explanations to some of the questions

Date planted: the date you sowed the seeds, either directly into the ground or in a seedling tray

Date transplanted into garden: the date you transplanted the seedlings into the garden

Date of 1st germination: the date you noticed the first seedling emerge (either from the ground or in a seedling tray; if a seedling tray, be sure to let us know how/where you started the plants)

Total number of germinated seeds (date): when you decide that no more plants are likely to germinate, include the date; be sure to count how many seeds you plant!

Date of 50% flowering: the date when 50% of the *plants* are in flower, even if they only have one flower each!

Date first fruit produced: the date you see the first green fruit form.

What color are the flowers? Most cowpea flowers are light purple or white but can vary. Please note if the standards are a different color than the wings (see drawing).

Do the dry pods have any markings? The dried pods of some cowpea varieties have striping or faint lines of color.

Date of first dry pods: the date you first noticed brown, dry pods.

How tall is the plant at maturity? If you've got a bush-type variety, try to measure from the ground to the highest average point of the plants; a metric ruler (cm) is best, but use whatever you have. If you've got a vining type and trellised it, let us know what type of trellis you used, how tall it was and whether you considered the plants "aggressive" – did it completely fill out the trellis? A photograph is often good here.

Date of 1st harvest and date of last harvest: this may depend on how you harvest cowpeas; if you wait to harvest mature pods all at once at the end of the season, simply record that date; if you harvest periodically, just record the dates of your first and last harvests (we can extrapolate from the first fruit and single harvest dates for "length of season").

Total weight (or number) of fruit produced throughout the season: if you harvest periodically, just give us an assessment of whether you considered it prolific (more cowpeas than you know what to do with), fine, or poor (not enough to make a meal).

What form does the plant take? Cowpeas tend to be either compact bushy things (not many of our varieties), sprawling or viney; a photograph is best for this. Viney indicates that it vines up a support; sprawling indicates it sprawls on the ground.