



## **Agronomic Tip: Field Peas, swathing vs. straight cutting**

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### **Which is the best way to harvest my Field Peas?**

Field peas can be swathed and threshed or straight combined. The choice depends on the stage and uniformity of maturity, the crop type, shattering resistance, and machinery availability.

Field peas can be swathed prior to full maturity or straight combined at full maturity. However, to preserve green colour, green peas are usually swathed or desiccated early and combined as soon as possible to prevent bleaching. If straight cutting is planned, desiccation prior to maturity may be necessary. Yellow peas and feed peas can be swathed prior to maturity or straight cut when mature.

Here are some tips for both practices:

#### **Swathing**

If peas are swathed, a pick-up reel will help in moving the plant material off the cutter bar and onto the canvas. Swaths are very prone to blowing. When possible, they should be combined immediately after swathing. Lifter guards on the swather will allow for cutting close to the soil surface.

#### **Direct Harvesting**

A Sund, Rake Up pickup or flex header (flexible cutter bar) can be used to direct-harvest peas. Peas should be harvested on the tough side (17-20 per cent seed moisture content) to reduce splitting and seed coat cracking. Cylinder speed of the combine should be set at 300-600 rpm; slow the cylinder down as the seed moisture content drops, set concave at 5/8" front; 3/8" rear - chaffer at 5/8" - lower sieve setting at 3/8" - sieve size 7/16". Use high airflow for good separation. Operate unloading auger slowly to reduce splitting and seed coat cracking.

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