

Lathyrus - Growing Guide

Caring For Lathyrus

We stock two very different types and species of Lathyrus. One is a spring flowering herbaceous perennial (*L. vernus*) and the other is a summer flowering herbaceous perennial climber with winged stems which can readily be self-clinging with its tendrils onto an adjacent wall support (*L. latifolius*). The thing which lumps these two plants together into the genus Lathyrus is their 'sweet pea' or 'pea' flowers.

Most 'sweet peas' that are so popular in gardens are annuals. These two differing species are not.

L. vernus is a dense, clump forming herbaceous perennial with 'unwinged' (ie unable to cling to anything nearby) upright stems which grows about 10-20in tall with a similar spread. Its common name is 'spring vetchling' which gives the game away! In spring it produces racemes of one sided (ie unlike 'sweet peas') racemes of attractive purplish-blue flowers that fade to greenish-blue before they drop. It is an interesting and rather different form of perennial sweet pea.



Lathyrus vernus



Lathyrus vernus



Lathyrus vernus



Lathyrus vernus
'Rosenelfe'

L. latifolius is a tremendous garden plant. There are other perennial and semi climbing species which Burncoose would very much like to stock in the future.



Lathyrus latifolius 'Alba'



Lathyrus latifolius 'Pink
Pearl'



Lathyrus latifolius 'Pink
Pearl'



Lathyrus latifolius 'Pink
Pearl'



Lathyrus latifolius 'White
Pearl'



Lathyrus latifolius 'White
Pearl'



Lathyrus latifolius 'White Pearl'

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