



## Hawai'i Gardeners Trial Snow Pea Varieties for Community Science Project

Marielle Hampton, James Keach, Emilie Kirk

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawaii at Manoa



Gardeners across the state participated in a snow pea variety trial with the CTAHR Seed Hui's community science program. In partnership with the [Hawaii Seed Growers Network](#), Extension agents organized the trial to guide future snow pea selections for local growers and promote seed saving in the community. Starting in February 2023, the team distributed snow pea seeds to 35 home gardeners and hosted monthly virtual meetings to answer questions and provide resources and guidance on growing peas in Hawai'i. Presentations covered pea germination and planting, pests and disease, trellising, harvest, saving seeds, and cooking. Participants periodically submitted observations and photos from their plots through the online tool [Padlet](#) to provide updates. Fifteen participants submitted final data collection forms scoring their trial varieties based on their observations.

**Figure 1:** Freshly harvested snow peas from a participant's garden.

On average, the top-rated variety was Oregon Sugar Pod II with a score of 4.3 out of 5. Comments indicated that it was the favorite for several growers, offering a “crispy and lovely taste” and good production, though one respondent noted that the Mānoa varieties had a longer production time. Mānoa C, [offered for sale through the Hawaii Seed Growers Network](#), was the second highest rated variety in the trial.

At the end of the trial, 21 participants responded to a final evaluation survey to share the impact of the project on their gardening. Seventy one percent of respondents learned more about seed saving, 67% learned more about plants, and 38% learned more about soil. Surveyed participants reported an immediate impact on their behavior, with 62% using different practices in their garden, 14% saving seeds for the first time, and 57% growing a new plant in their garden.

As a result of the program, 57% of surveyed participants plan to save more seeds from their garden and 52% will show or teach others about saving seeds. Participants also reported that they will grow different plants in their garden (71% of respondents) and use different practices in their garden (62% of respondents).



**Figure 2:** Seven varieties of snow peas packed and ready to send out to project participants.

**Average Scores for Selected Characteristics on a Scale of 1-5**

Variety	Flavor	Appearance	Yield	Overall Performance	Final Average Score
<b>Oregon Sugar Pod II</b>	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	<b>4.3</b>
<b>Mānoa C</b>	4.2	3.9	4.1	4.2	<b>4.1</b>
<b>Ho Lan Dow</b>	4.0	4.2	3.7	3.7	<b>3.9</b>
<b>Schweizer Reisen</b>	3.9	3.8	3.5	3.4	<b>3.7</b>
<b>Mānoa</b>	4.0	3.9	3.1	3.6	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Oregon Giant</b>	3.8	4.1	3.0	3.2	<b>3.5</b>
<b>Nieve De Seville</b>	3.5	3.6	2.9	2.7	<b>3.2</b>

The snow pea trial was the second community science project with the CTAHR Seed Hui, and participants expressed interest in joining for another round in the coming year. After an initial discussion, the most popular crop requested for future projects was carrots (7 votes), followed by onions (4 votes), and lettuce, kale, beans or cucumbers (3 votes each). The CTAHR team expects to launch a new round of the project in the coming year.

Many thanks to the CTAHR Seed Hui team working on the community science program: James Keach, Emilie Kirk, Amjad Ahmad, Jennifer Hawkins, Glenn Teves, and Marielle Hampton.



**Figure 3:** Five varieties of freshly harvested snow peas from a participant’s garden, with okra in the middle.



**Figure 4:** Young ‘Schweizer Reisen’ shoots.

**Disclaimer:** Mention of any agricultural product in this article is solely for information purposes and is not intended to promote any business.