



## The Garden Surprise

Last spring I started a couple of batches of seeds in some containers in my house to get a jump on Spring. I thought it would be lovely to have sweet peas growing in small groups tucked into nooks and crannies in my back yard. I started some Sugar Snap Peas at the same time. In a couple of weeks they were ready for transplant into the garden. The Sugar Snaps went in neat rows in my raised bed vegetable garden. The Sweet Peas got tucked into nooks and crannies all over the backyard. Imagine my surprise when the Sweet Peas started blooming, in the vegetable bed! Of course that meant the Sugar Snaps were scattered throughout the yard.

What I hadn't expected is what a treasure hunt this created for the grandkids. Every time they visited the backyard they would go on a search for Sugar Snap Peas ready to eat right off the vine. They even brought their friends over to snack. We didn't cook one of those peas all season, but the kids sure got plenty of fresh, healthy snacks.

Teaching children to nurture plants is a wonderful way to grow caring children. This is the time of year to plant a few seeds or transplant a few seedlings. It is not necessary to be burdened by a large garden to enjoy growing things. You may want to choose a small corner of the yard with plenty of sun, or even a large patio pot can be put into service to grow a tomato plant, or some carrots. Purchasing potting soil with some kind of moisture holding addition and fertilizer, may cost a little more but it increases your odds of having a good result. The important part is that you take time with your kids to water, weed and take care of the plants while you plant the seeds of caring and kindness in your children's hearts. That will produce a harvest that we will all enjoy for years to come.

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