

With the freezing weather that has dominated the past two weeks, it's almost impossible to believe that anything grows and can be harvested this month. A look at the availability chart from a month-to-month guide to Texas gardens show that English peas and spinach end their days this month if they are protected or until you are tired of them. I only wish that I had included both of them in my fall garden, because I love peas and leafy greens like spinach that are versatile and nutritious this time of year.

Peas are especially good in creamy soups, and here is my version:

Creamy Pea Soup

1/2 lb. peas, shelled
1 medium onion, diced fine
1 carrot, diced fine
1 qt. chicken broth
1 c. sour cream
1 t. onion powder
salt and pepper to taste

Cook the vegetables in the chicken broth until they are soft. Add onion powder, salt, and pepper. Puree with sour cream until smooth. Serve hot with extra sour cream, mint leaves, edible pea pods, and bacon for garnishes.

(Submitted by Sherri Wagner)