

## Sweet Pea Variety Trials in Honduras

by

ARNOLD KROCHMAL and ALFONSO TORRES (1)

Fresh peas are generally considered a luxury item in Honduras, and are reputedly a difficult and expensive crop to produce because of low yields and fungus attacks.

The Department of Horticulture at the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana has undertaken to study means of increasing yields of this crop as part of its vegetable program.

The first step in the project was a preliminary study of variety differences with seeds available; Lolo, Resistant Early Perfection, Little Marvel, Pedigree Extra Early and World's Record. All were planted September 21, 1960, in beds 36 inches apart, with a planting distance between seed of 12 inches.

The plants were not supported at any stage of development; no irrigation was used as the plants were grown during the rainy season; a heavy clay soil with poor drainage was used; fungus control was attempted with the use of Bordeaux with fair results for Lolo, Resistant Early Perfection and World's Record. No insect problem of any degree of seriousness occurred.

Each variety was harvested five times, except Lolo, which bore a heavy enough crop to be harvested six times.

TABLE 1. Yield data for five varieties of peas grown at El Zamorano, Honduras.

VARIETY <sup>1</sup>	Average yield per plan in ounces	N <sup>o</sup> of plants in trial	Acre <sup>2</sup> Yield, pounds/
Lolo	2.55	294	2314.1
Resistant Early Perfection	2.17	288	1906.8
World's Record	0.65	312	587.4
Pedigree Extra Early	0.36	279	328.6
Little Marvel	0.35	210	314.9

(1) Seed Source, ASGROW International, New Haven, Connecticut.

(2) Planting distance, 12" x 36".

(1) Department of Horticulture, Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, El Zamorano, Honduras.