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*Pisum*

*Leguminosae*

[*Fabaceae/Papilionaceae*]

*Pisum* is derived for some authorities from a Celtic name *pis* or a Sanskrit word, and is a classical Latin name for ‘pea’, and for others honours the Italian town of Pisa where the plant could be found in the wild state.

Members of this family absorb nitrogen from the air. Through the bacterial nodules on their deep growing roots they will introduce nitrogen to the soil (and aerate it) to the benefit of neighbouring plants and any following them in the same soil.