**Fabaceae (Pea Family)-Cheat Sheet 2022**

* 630 genera and 18000 species of pea
* Third largest plant family behind Asteraceae and Orchidaceae
* Herbs, shrubs, or trees
* Leaves alternate, stipulate, varying from simple to palmate or bipinnately compound
* Superior ovary
* Fruit a legume
* Commercially important: peas, beans, clover alfalfa
* Most peas form symbiotic relationship with nitrogen-fixing bacteria in the soil
* Plants in Pea Family range from edible to mildly poisonous; several are toxic
* Bear banner, wings, and keel; pea-like pods and often pinnate leaves

**Pea Subfamily Characteristics**

**Pea Subfamily (Faboideae)**: Members with distinctive banner, whings, and keel; mostly herbs but some shrubs and trees

**Golden Pea Tribe:** Have trifoliate leaves often with stipules

**Hedysarum Tribe**: have either trifoliate or pinnate leaves but no tendrils; pods on most species are deeply constricted between the seeds; a few are not constricted, but the pods still tend to break apart transversely

**Licorice Tribe**: most have pinnately divided leaves; none have tendrils or deeply constricted pods

**Clover Tribe:** distinctive trifoliate “clover” leaves; generally smaller, clustered flowers than most peas

**Broom Tribe:** mostly shrubs, some with spines; leaves simple, trifoliate, or palmately divided, but not pinnately divided

**Trefoil:** have trifoliate or pinnately divided leaves sometimes with stipules at base of leaves

**Pea Tribe:** Pinnate leaves and tendrils

**Bean Tribe:** Mostly twining plants that climb by growing their vine-like stems around poles or other objects; leaves are usually 3-parted

**Mimosa Subfamily Mimosoideae:**

* Consists of mostly trees and shrubs and a few forbs
* Leaves usually alternate, bipinnate
* Have 5 united sepals;5 separate petals and often 10 or more stamens (occasionally 4); flowers are usually in dense clusters with long stamens radiating out (like puffballs); usually brightly colored
* Superior ovary of a single carpel, which matures as a typical pea pod

**Caesalpinia Subfamily (Caesalpinioideae):**

* Includes mostly trees and shrubs (rarely forbs) with showy, slightly irregular flowers
* Leaves may be simple, pinnate, or bipinnate
* Have 5 separate sepals and 5 petals, with one petal enclosed inside the others
* Usually 10 (occasionally fewer) stamens
* Ovary is positioned superior, consisting of a single carpel, which matures as a typical pea pod