



## Growing Beans

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### There Are Many Kinds of Beans

With relatively little space, Bush Beans can produce large yields from compact bush-type or graceful pole-type varieties. Wide range of soil types tolerated but optimum growth is in light, organic, well-drained soil. Beans dislike cold, wet soils so plant seed only after soil has warmed to at least 60°F (16°C). They come in a variety of colours such as yellow and green. There are purple varieties which turn green once cooked. Also they come in a variety of uses such as ones good for the table, freezing, canning, heat tolerance, stringless pods, heavy and long term production.

Sow bush beans in mid to late May, 2.5 cm (1") deep and 8 cm (3") apart in rows spaced 45-70 cm (18-28") apart. You can also plant them in a 5" wide trench.

For continuous harvest, sow bush-type varieties every 10 days until mid July. Keep plants evenly watered, especially when in flower & when production of pods starts. Avoid use of high nitrogen fertilizer. Avoid disturbing beans when the leaves are damp in order to reduce incidence of disease. Harvest early in the day.

### Pole Beans

Pole Beans offer a bountiful harvest in a limited space. Most varieties also possess ornamental value such as the Scarlet Runner bean whose flowers, hummingbirds find irresistible.

Pole beans have the same requirements as bush beans except that pole beans can be grown on trellises, open weave fencing, nylon bean netting strung between supports, or on bamboo or pole teepees. Securely anchored temporary structures prevent collapse during the growing season.

### Fava/Broad Beans

Fava/Broad Beans are robust, upright plants which produce very large meaty beans. Mature pods are inedible but the distinctively flavoured beans within them are superb fresh or dried for winter use.

Seeds germinate well in cooler soil. Plant seeds early in the spring about the same time as garden peas.

### Lima Beans

Lima Beans demand warm soil so they are usually planted early to mid June. Sow them in rows 75-80 cm (30-32") apart and not closer than 1-15 cm (4-6") apart in the row.

### Problems that might be encountered

Beans can get bean mosaic and top curly virus.

Learn about growing beans from [Cornell University](http://Cornell University)>

Learn more about beans from [Wikipedia](http://Wikipedia) >