

Latin Name/Genus: *Phaseolus Vulgaris*

Family: *Fabaceae*

Difficulty: Easy

Season: Warm season

Exposure: Full-sun

Zone: Between Zones 3-10



Timing: Direct sow bush beans beginning mid-spring to early summer - strive to plant during a warm, dry spell. Soil must be warm – if not, seeds may rot. Optimal soil temperature for bean germination is 21-32°C.

Starting: Sow seeds 2-5cm (1-2") deep, 5-8cm (2-3") apart, in rows 45-60cm (18-24") apart; thin to at least 15cm (6") apart in each row once established. If your weather is too wet, beans can also be started in pots indoors to avoid seed rot, then can be set out carefully a few weeks later. Bush bean seeds should sprout in 8-16 days, depending on weather conditions, etc; for a continuous harvest, plant at 3-week intervals.

Days to Maturity: From direct sowing date.

Growing: Ideal pH for bush beans is 6.0-7.0 - well drained, warm soil in full sun is best. Raised beds can help with both drainage and warmth. Wet leaves on crowded plants are subject to diseases. Thin plants to increase air circulation and avoid touching the leaves while they are wet.

Nutrient Preferences: Due to the fact that bush beans are beneficial in helping to correct nitrogen in soil, they tend not to require any supplemental fertilizers or nutrients – careful as too much nitrogen fertilizer is often the cause of pod issues/delayed maturity. A light feeding of compost, however, or general fertilizer at the beginning of the growing season can help balance your plant's needs (1 cup of general fertilizer for every 3m (10')), along with a minimal application of calcium, iron, and zinc (encourages pod development), or try spraying bean plants with kelp-based fertilizer.

Harvest: Regularly harvest bush beans to keep plants producing (if pods get fat with seed, plants will stop flowering); the smaller the bean, the more tender they are.

Disease & Pests: If dealing with aphids, a hard stream of water can be used to remove aphids from each plant (wash off with water early in the day). Check for natural enemies such as grey-brown or bloated, parasitized aphids and the presence of larvae of lady beetles and lacewings. If experiencing spider mites (two-spotted), wash off with water early in the day with a hard stream of water as with aphids. Leafhoppers (small, light green to grey insects that feed on the plant juices) may also develop on bush bean plants, which can cause stunted plant growth, and attribute to virus transfer, however, there is no cultural control available besides application of diatomaceous earth on affected leaves and area.



Bush Beans

Plant Care Information

Companion Planting: Bush beans appreciate being planted near beets, brassicas, carrots, celery, chard, corn, cucumber, eggplant, peas, potatoes, radish, and strawberries; avoid planting near chives, garlic, leeks, and onions.