

MOLES SEEDS

Beans (Broad, French and Runner)

Cultural Leaflet: ZZ521

Beans are some of the most popular grown vegetables in gardens and allotments and young plants sell easily in garden centres. In general they all like the same conditions and have similar requirements

Broad Bean

This crop provides early cash returns plus has beneficial uses as a green manure, fixing nitrogen and also adding bulk to the soil. Also popular for loose seed sales in garden centres and shops.

Propagation and Growing-on

Sow February to March (approx. 650 seeds per kilo; 1300 for Stereo) into trays. Germinates between 5 and 20°C. Plant out in Spring (20x60cm) or for retail sales, they can be sold in cell trays.

For exposed sites, select a compact variety such as Sutton.

Alternatively sow direct, 5-7.5cm deep and 15-23cm apart, depending on the variety. Some varieties such as Aquadulce can be sown direct in October-November and left to overwinter. Otherwise sow February onwards for harvest in May-June.

Seed requirement is approximately 80kg/acre (200kg/Ha).

Climbing French and Dwarf French Bean

Dwarf French beans give a high return for limited space and outlay. Suitable for fresh sales and for processing; also popular for pick-your-own use.

For retail plant sales, direct sow into cell trays and sell when first true leaves emerge, after two-three weeks.

Propagation and Growing-on

To crop under glass sow from February onwards. Germinates between 16-25°C (2000 seeds per kilo). Sow in modules for transplanting outside in May/June.

Alternatively sow direct outside in May/June. Use a plant spacing of 25 x 75cm. Harvest from July onwards. Support netting or staking required.

Seed requirement around 75-100 kilos per hectare.

Runner Bean

Quintessentially British, runner beans are popular as a finished product and for young plant sales. With a high crop to space ratio, runner beans are suitable for loose seed sales, fresh market, and pick-your-own. The crop has good storage and handling characteristics.

Most varieties grow very tall and will produce colourful red, white or bi-coloured flowers. They are trained up canes, hence the name 'stick beans' sometimes given to them. As they are not self-fertile and require bees to pollinate the flowers, they tend to be grown outside, rather than in tunnels. Compact, bushy types such as the Jackpot Series and Hestia are also available for patio cropping.

For retail plant sales, direct sow seeds May/June into 6 or 9 cell trays and sell when true leaves emerge, after two-three weeks.

Propagation and Growing-on

Sow under glass in late April for planting out in May. Germinates between 12-25°C (650-1000 seeds per kilo).

Alternatively, sow direct outside in May-June. Allow 22-25cm between plants. Crop from July onwards.

Seed requirement 100-150 kilos per hectare.

Pest and Disease

Beans can be affected by the following:

- Slugs and snails
- Blackfly
- Pigeons
- Mice
- Chocolate spot
- Broad Bean rust
- Wet weather / snow damage / high winds for autumn sown
- Pea and Bean weevil
- Broad Bean seed beetle

Information provided for guidance only, as cultural practices and climatic circumstances vary.

(12/15)

