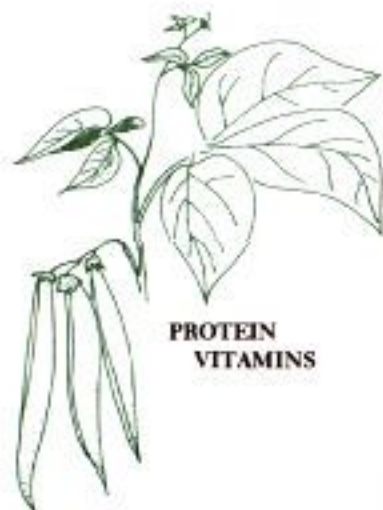


# Garden Beans

by Raymond E. Vasold, Saginaw Co. CED, and  
James E. Motes, Dept. of Horticulture



**PROTEIN  
VITAMINS**

**GREEN BEANS**

## WHY BEANS?

Beans are easy-to-grow, high yielding and a good source of protein and vitamins. Make small plantings (10 to 20 feet of row) every two weeks in June and early July to provide beans all summer and early fall.

## VARIETIES

One or more of the following varieties are available through seed catalogs and garden stores. Numbers in ( ) indicate approximate number of days to harvest from seeding.

### **Bush Green**

- Provider (50)
- Spartan Arrow (51)
- Bush Romano (52)
- Contender (53)
- Tendercrop (53)
- Tenderette (53)
- Improved Tendergreen (56)
- Bush Blue Lake (58)

### **Bush Yellow**

- Cherokee Wax (52)
- Eastern Butterwax (53)
- Golderop (54)
- Kinghorn Special (54)

### **Pole**

### **Horticultural (Shell Beans)**

- French Horticultural (68)

- Blue Lake (60)
- Romano (64)
- Kentucky Wonder (65)

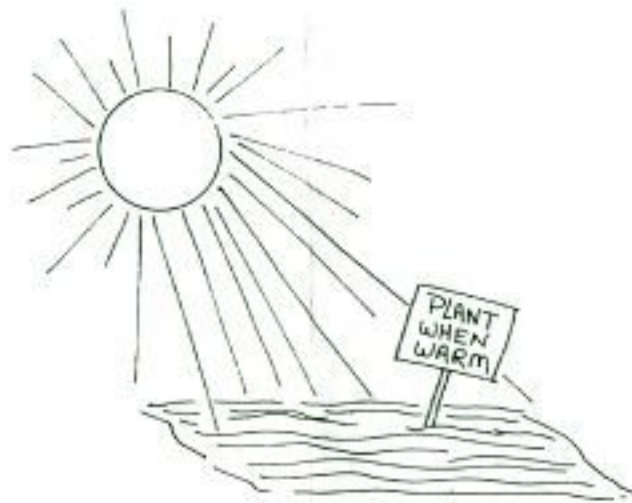


## GOOD SOIL . . . FOR BETTER BEANS

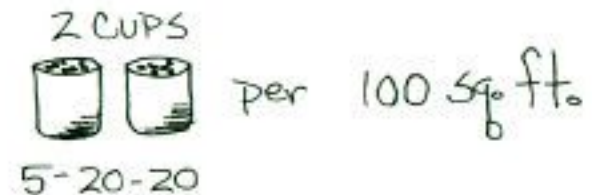
The right soil is very important. Beans will not do well on very acid soil. Ask your Cooperative Extension Agent if a soil test is necessary.

A well-drained, loose soil is ideal for beans. Sticky clay soils need compost or well rotted manure added if available. See bulletin No. 2 "Soils" for more ideas on soil preparation.

Unless soil is sandy or light, do not plant early in the spring. Beans must be planted in a sunny place. Beans are a warm temperature crop and will not do well until the soil temperature reaches 60°F (usually in late May). Any thermometer can be used to get temperature. Place bulb 2 inches into soil for temperature reading.

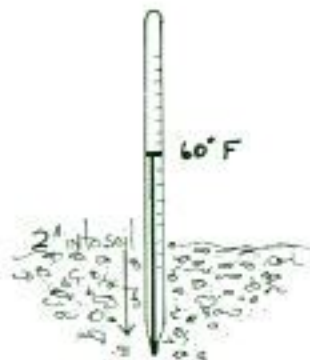
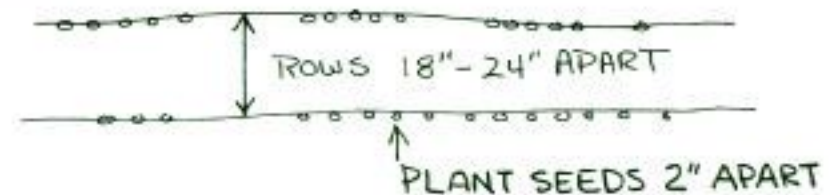


. . . Mix one pound (2 cups) of 5-20-20 fertilizer into the soil when spading or rototilling for each 100 sq. ft. (length × width in feet give number of square feet). Add another 2 cups evenly on the soil surface and work in with a garden rake before seeding.



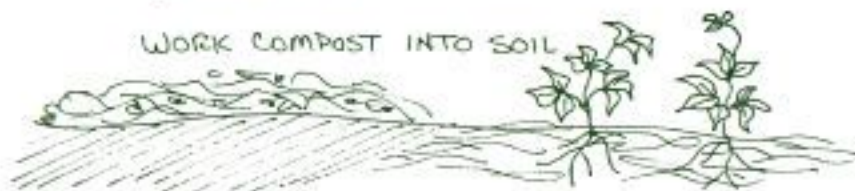
## SEEDING BUSH BEANS

Plant in rows 18 to 24 inches apart. Place seeds 2 in. apart in the rows. Plant seeds 1 to 1½ in. deep in early plantings and 1½ to 2 in. deep in later plantings. Growing different colors and types of beans will give more of a variety to choose from because of their different looks and tastes.



## FERTILIZER . . . . THE PLANT'S FOOD

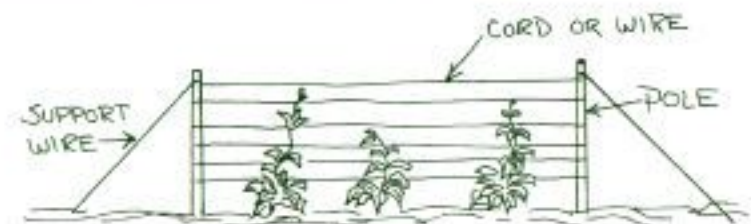
Well rotted manure (if available), rotted leaves, compost, garden refuse, or other similar materials are good for your garden. Spread them evenly and plow or spade into the soil.



## SEEDING POLE BEANS

For pole beans, place 3 to 4 seeds at the base of poles placed 3 feet apart. Poles can be of any material about 5 ft. long and set about one ft. into the ground.

Pole beans are desirable for small gardens because they require less space by using a pole or trellis. To make a trellis, set a sturdy pole at each end of a 10 ft. row. Use cord or wire between the poles.





WATER IN  
MID-SUMMER  
FOR THIRSTY  
PLANTS.



## WATER . . . IF AVAILABLE

If beans show signs of wilting in mid-summer, watering will be profitable, but only if you have a supply of low cost water (your own well).

## HARVEST . . . FOR TENDERNESS

Pick snap beans when pods are fully formed, but before seeds start to bulge the pod. Can, freeze or eat soon after harvest as quality is quickly lost. Do so within 24 hours if possible.

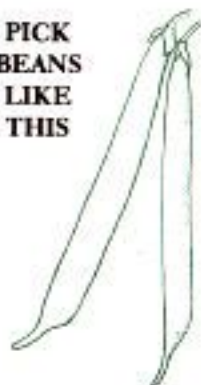
Pick horticultural (shell) beans when they are almost full grown and just as pods begin to dry up or change color.

## DISEASE & INSECTS

Disease and insects seldom harm beans. Should a problem arise, take an infected plant to your county office of the Cooperative Extension Service.

Early plantings of beans (before May 10 in southern Michigan and May 20 for northern Michigan) are risky because of possible frost damage or seed rot. However, if you want very early beans, plant only a few the first planting. Replant if lost.

PICK  
BEANS  
LIKE  
THIS



NOT  
LIKE  
THIS



KEYS  
TO  
SUCCESS

- **Grow more than one variety**
- **Plant more than once**
- **Harvest at the right time**
- **Use or preserve soon after harvest**

*Other bulletins in this series provide additional information on vegetable gardening.*

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