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virginia home food production



SNAP BEANS DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE

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MH 402

ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

LIGHT: sunny

SOIL: well-drained

FERTILITY: medium-rich

pH: 5.8 - 7

TEMPERATURE: warm (60-75°F)

MOISTURE: average



CULTURE

PLANTING: seed after danger of frost is past. Inoculating seeds with nitrogen-fixing bacteria may increase yields on new land.

SPACING: 2" x 24-30"

HARDINESS: tender annual

FERTILIZER NEEDS:

medium feeder (fixes nitrogen once established,) excess nitrogen delays flowering, sidedress after heavy bloom and set of pods. (1 1/2 oz. (33-0-0) per 10 feet of row).

CULTURAL PRACTICES:

Beans grown for the pod, such as green snapbeans, are the most common. However, some beans are grown primarily for the bean itself and not the pod, for example, lima beans and edible soybeans.

The bush snapbean is the most popular because of its early maturity and because it requires less space. Most varieties of bush snapbeans will have pods ready for harvest 50 to 60 days from seeding.

First plantings should be made after danger of the last killing frost in the spring. Beans planted in cold soil grow slower and are more susceptible to rotting. Plant several

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crops of bush snapbeans two to three weeks apart until August 1.

Soils should be moderately fertile. Excess nitrogen will produce large plants but few beans.

Plant bush snapbeans in rows 24 to 30 inches apart or in beds. Seeds should be planted two inches apart and one to one and one-half inches deep. It will usually take about one pound of seed to plant 100 ft. of row, depending upon the variety and type of beans planted.

Bean roots grow close to the surface of the soil, so cultivation should be limited to the top one inch of soil to prevent damage to roots. Beans suffer from drought easily, so water during the growing season especially at bloom and pod-setting, if no rain has occurred within 2 weeks.

COMMON PROBLEMS

DISEASES: mosaic (use resistant varieties)

bacterial blight (use disease free western grown seed)

seed rot (do not plant in cold, moist soils)

root rot, stem rot

INSECTS: Mexican bean beetles and larvae

CULTURAL: large plants, few beans (excess nitrogen)

blossom drop (excessive heat, dry winds)

NUTRITIONAL VALUE

Green Snapbeans 1 cup	<u>Grams</u>	<u>Calories</u>
	125	30
	<u>% U.S. RDA</u>	
	<u>Vitamin A</u>	<u>Vitamin C</u>
	15	25

HARVESTING AND STORAGE

DAYS TO MATURITY: 50-60 days from seed

HARVEST: full-size pods; small beans, or larger beans as long as pods are still tender; pods break easily with a "snap" when ready, seeds should not cause pods to bulge.

APPROXIMATE YIELDS: (per 10 foot row)

3-5 lbs.

AMOUNT TO RAISE PER PERSON: 8 lbs.

STORAGE: cool, (40-50°F) moist (95% RH) conditions; 7-10 days

PRESERVATION: can or freeze

Prepared by: A. McDaniel, B. Adler,
F.D. Relf