ENVIRONMENTAL PREFERENCES

LIGHT: sunny
SOIL: well-drained
FERTILITY: medium
PH: 6.0-7.0
TEMPERATURE: warm
MOISTURE: average

CULTURE

PLANTING: seed after damage of frost is past. Soil temperature 65°F.

SPACING: Bush Lima Beans
4" x 18-30" 

Pole Beans
4-8" x 24-36"

HARDINESS: very tender annual

FERTILIZER NEEDS: medium feeder (fixes nitrogen once established) excess nitrogen delays flowering, side dress after heavy bloom and set of pods (1½ oz. (33-0-0) per 10 feet of row)

CULTURAL PRACTICES: Lima Beans
There are two types of lima beans, a bush form and a pole form. Bush lima beans mature about 25-31 days earlier than pole lima beans. Pole lima beans have a better yield and produce longer than the bush forms. Bush lima beans will produce for 3 weeks and pole lima beans will produce for 4 weeks, unless stopped by a frost. Soil temperature should be 65°F for 5 days in order for the beans to germinate. Lima beans have trouble pushing through the soil if a crust is allowed to form on the soil. Sand, peat moss, or vermiculite can be spread over the seed. Cold, wet weather will cause the flowers to drop. At temperatures above 85°F
flowers will not set fruit.

Avoid wetting the foliage and do not work with the plants while foliage is wet. Diseases may be spread by contact with wet leaves.

**Pole Beans**

Pole type beans come in many varieties, generally bearing over a longer period than bush type, and therefore may yield more in the same amount of space.

Pole beans will not interweave themselves through horizontal wires, but will only grow up vertical supports. Poles or trellises should be 6-8 feet tall. Poles may be placed 3 feet apart in the row or in "teepee" tripod style with 5-6 seeds planted in a circle 6-8 inches from each pole.

**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 beetle,
White flies, Spotted bean beetle

**CULTURAL:** flower drop (cold, wet weather)
reduced pod set (hot temperatures above 85°F)

**NUTRITIONAL VALUE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 cup, Lima beans</th>
<th>Grams</th>
<th>Calories</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>170</td>
<td>190</td>
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% U.S. RDA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vitamin A</th>
<th>Vitamin C</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>50</td>
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**HARVESTING AND STORAGE**

**DAYS TO MATURITY:**
- Bush lima beans: 60-70 days
- Pole lima beans: 85-110 days
- Pole beans: 60-110 days

**HARVEST:** Lima beans

Seeds will be full sized and pods will be bright green. The end of the pod will be spongy. For dry beans, pods should remain on bush until dry.

Pole beans

Pod should be young and stringless. For shell beans, pod should remain on bush until dry.

**APPROXIMATE YIELDS:** (per 10 ft. row)
- Lima beans: 4-6 lbs.

**AMOUNT TO RAISE PER PERSON:**
- Lima beans: 5-10 lbs.

**PRESERVATION:** drying, freezing, canning

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