Dwarf French Bean Growing Guide

Phaseolus vulgaris

Originating from South America, Dwarf French Beans are a good source of folate and carotene.

UK Market

The majority of the French/green beans produced in the UK are used in the fresh market. There is some production for freezing.

Soil Types

The beans need free draining but moisture retentive soils, they grow best on medium loamy soils. They do not grow well on heavy soils as the root growth can become restricted.

Growing

Early crops can be grown under glass, if the glass is heated they can be planted in march for cropping from May. If the glass is not heated they can be sown from April for cropping from June. The crops sown under glass are normally planted in 24 inch rows with 2.5-3 inches between the plants; this requires 87,000 to 105,000 seeds per acre (215,000 to 259,500 seeds per hectare).

Seed Germination Guide (°C)	Soil Temperature	10	15	20	25	30	35
	Optimum Range						

The maincrop dwarf beans can be grown outside from May till the beginning of July, this allows for cropping from July. They are normally sown in rows that are 15 inches apart with 2.5-3 inches between the seeds. They are sown at a rate of 140,000 to 180,000 seeds per acre (346,000 to 444,800 seeds per hectare).

Post-harvest Treatment

The crop that is due to be sold to the fresh market is normally hand picked with the processing crop being machine harvested.

Fertiliser usage

Source: The Fertiliser Manual (RB209) 8th edition (2011).

	Soil index					
	0	1	2	3	4	5+
Nutrient	kg/ha					
Nitrogen(N) – all soil types	180	150	120	80	30	0[a]
Phosphate (P2O5)	200	150	100	50	0	0
Potash (K2O)	200	150	100 (2-) 50 (2+)	0	0	0
Magnesium MgO	100	50	0	0	0	0

Apply no more than 100 kg/ha nitrogen at sowing or planting. The remainder should be applied when the crop is fully established.

[a] A small amount of nitrogen may be needed if soil nitrogen levels are low in the 0-30 cm of soil.

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The Seed Specialists

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Varieties available from Elsoms seeds

Fine bean

Faraday

Uniform and high yielding, slightly glossy with good vigour. Mid-high pod attachment giving straight pods.

Medium beans

Parker

A high yielding variety with dark green, round glossy pods of medium length. Can be used for the fresh or processing market.

Stanley

Medium long, green pods with good uniformity. High yielding with resistance to halo bright and anthracnose.

Lawrence

High yielding with a beautiful dark green colour.

Large beans

Endeavour

Our largest bean of this type with strong upright plants.

Rex

Attractive straight, dark, shiny pods with high yielding upright plants.

Variety	6.5-8	8-9	9-10.5	>10.5	Length (cm)	Colour	Maturity	Plant height (cm)	Comments
Faraday	80%	20%	0%	0%	13-14	8	2	50	Uniform
Lawrence	0%	25%	75%	0%	13-14	10	+2	50	very dark green colour
Parker	0%	40%	60%	0%	14-15	8	0/+2	55	Long straight pods
Stanley	0%	20%	75%	5%	12-13	7	0/+2	50	High yielding
Rex	0%	0%	20%	80%	14-15	9	+2	45	High yielding
Endeavour	0%	0%	10%	90%	14-15	8	+2	55	Very high yielding

Further information

For further information on the different varieties, seed treatments, pests and disease please contact your regional vegetable seed specialist or see the Elsoms Seeds catalogue.

Links

Elsoms Seeds website and catalogue:
http://www.elsoms.com/

The Fertiliser Manual (RB209)
http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/rb209-fertiliser-manual-110412.pdf

Assured Produce: *the growing partnership* (contains crop specific protocols):
http://www.assuredproduce.co.uk

The information provided in this sheet is intended for general guidance only and is correct to the best of our knowledge. Please be aware that variations in the growing environment and climatic conditions can render this information inaccurate. For more specific advice about fertiliser use please contact a FACTS certified advisor.

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