

Broad bean Growing Guide

Vicia faba



Broad beans also known as Faba beans in some countries, they are thought to be one of the oldest crops in cultivation being grown for around 8000 years. Their roots contain nitrogen fixing rhizobium bacteria in nodules, as a result they do not need additional nitrogen when they are growing. They are low in saturated fat and cholesterol, and are a good source of various minerals including Phosphorous, Potassium, Folate and Copper.

UK Market

All the broad bean crops are grown for the fresh market.

Soil Types

Broad beans can grow on a wide range of soils provided they are free draining, however lighter soils are better for overwintered crops.

Growing

Broad bean crops are normally direct drilled in 18 inch rows with approximately 6 inches between seeds resulting in 58,000 seeds per acre (143,000 seeds per hectare).

Broad Bean	Seed Germination Guide (°C)	Soil Temperature	5	10	15	20	25	30
		Optimum Range						

The overwintered crop is normally drilled in November to December for the earliest production from May to June. An early crop can also be drilled in the middle of February for production in June, with the maincrop beans drilled in April onwards for production from July. All broad beans are hand-picked.

Fertiliser usage

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

Nutrient	Soil index				
	0	1	2	3	4 +
	kg/ha				
Nitrogen	0	0	0	0	0
Phosphate (P ₂ O ₅)	200	150	100	50	0
Potash (K ₂ O)	200	150	100(2+) 50 (2-)	0	0
Magnesium (MgO)	100	50	0	0	0

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Varieties available from Elsoms Seeds

For Autumn sowing only

Aquadulce Claudia

This variety has a very early maturity, from Autumn sowings only and produces large pods.

For Spring and Autumn sowing:

De Monica

Monica is a new early, high yielding variety bred by Holland Select. It is a long day variety specifically bred for the fresh market. A high proportion of the beans on each plant mature together, helping to reduce harvesting costs.

For Spring sowing

Witkiem Manita

Witkiem Manita is a well known maincrop variety that produces high yields of broad well filled pods.

Variety	Approximate plant height (cm)	Approximate pod length (cm)	Comments
Aquadulce Claudia	65	12	Traditionally used for autumn sowing, early maturing
De Monica	100-125	14	A new very high yielding overwintering and maincrop variety
Witkiem Manita	125-150	15	Popular, good yielding maincrop variety.

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>



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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