



Mercy Wellness Seed Program Growing Guides

Pole Beans:

Start: Sow in a sunny location after soil has warmed. Plant seeds 3" apart in rows 24" apart for linear trellises or in hills of 4-6 seeds grown up poles. Cover with 1" of soil. Seedlings emerge after 10-14 days.

Water: Keep beans consistently moist especially during dry spells. Avoid wetting foliage which may promote diseases. Beans need about 1" of rain per week.

Soil: Pole beans require well-drained soil of average fertility. pH 6.0-6.5.

Light: Full sun.

Fertilize: Beans usually only need a small addition of compost to the soil to fulfill their nutrient needs. If a fertilizer is used, choose one with low or no nitrogen as beans and other legumes capture nitrogen from the air through their leaves and too much nitrogen will lead to rapid leaf growth and poor fruit set.

Harvest: Keep beans picked for continuous harvest. For fresh use, harvest pods when well filled out with beans. For dry beans, allow mature pods to partially dry on the vine then place in a dry warm place with good air circulation to fully dry.

Notes: Bean seeds can be inoculated with a beneficial bacteria when sown to increase the amount of nitrogen they can capture through their leaves. Beans should not be planted where they will shade other plants that require full sun.

