

How to Grow Beans broad

General

Broad beans are a member of the pea family, and are one of the oldest known cultivated plants. Broad beans are also known many other names: fava beans, Windsor beans, faba bean, and horse beans.

Latin

Vicia faba

Family: Fabaceae

Difficulty

Easy

Season & Zone

Season: Cool season

Exposure: Full sun

Zone: Hardy from Zone 3 to 11

Timing

Direct sow October/November in mild winter areas. Direct sow February to May in other areas. Tall, soft plants won't withstand winter well. Optimal soil temperature for germination: 10-21°C (50-70°F).

Starting

Use a broad bean or combination inoculant to provide a source of nitrogen. Sow seed 5cm (2") deep, 15cm (6") apart in double rows 23cm (9") apart. Germination takes 10-14 days, depending on conditions.

Growing

Ideal pH: 6.0-6.5. Enrich the soil with compost prior to planting. Keep overwintered plants weeded. Provide stakes or strings between rows to stop plants from falling over.

Harvest

Pick when the pods appear plump and begin to droop from the weight of the seeds. Shell (like peas) and cook or use in soup. For dried beans, wait until the pods start to shrivel. Caution: some people are highly allergic to broad beans.

Seed Info

In optimum conditions at least 75% of seeds will germinate. Usual seed life: 2-3 years.

Diseases & Pests

When black aphids appear in May/June pinch off the growing tips on which the aphids feed. Spray the plants with blasts of water to dislodge remaining aphids.

Companion Planting

Excellent for fixing nitrogen in the soil. Avoid planting broad beans near onions.



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