



The GREEN BEAN stalk

The best-suited pole bean varieties for growing in containers are:

- Blue lake
- Kentucky Wonder
- Algarve
- Golden Gate

CHOOSE THE RIGHT CONTAINER FOR GROWING GREEN BEANS

- To successfully grow green beans, you need to choose a container deep enough to grow the beans. The **appropriate depth** depends on the variety of bean you want to grow.
- Pole beans require a depth of at least 8 to 9 inches.
- A good rule of thumb to follow when growing fresh vegetables is to go for bigger containers. **Larger containers** hold more soil, and in turn, retain moisture for longer.
- Your containers should also have adequate draining holes. 2 to 3 holes per planter. You can also cover the holes with a wire or plastic mesh to prevent the soil from leaking out the bottom. You can also line the bottom of the pot with about an inch of small stones.
- Terracotta pots, wooden boxes, and barrels all make great planters for growing beans. Just ensure you go for the unglazed options where possible. Unglazed containers are far better at moisture regulation. They allow excess water to evaporate, preventing your plants from drowning.

PREPARE YOUR POTTING MIX

- When growing green beans in containers, potting soil is essential for healthy plants. Beans do well in fertile, moisture-retentive soil rich in organic content.
- You can either buy a ready-made potting mix or make your own.

What are the Necessary Conditions for Green Beans?

Beans are relatively easy to grow. For instance:

In their native environment, beans grow in temperate or subtropical climates as annuals. They prefer warm weather with ambient temperatures between 65°F and 85°F.

In addition to warm temperatures, green beans need full sun to thrive. That is, at least six to eight hours in direct sunlight daily.

Are Green Beans Easy to Grow?

Once established, green beans are relatively low maintenance. However, there are a few things you can do to keep your plants healthy and boost yields. They are:

1. **Water them regularly:** Beans need plenty of water, especially when they are flowering. Water when the soil feels dry at a depth of two or three inches and mulch to retain moisture.

If you don't keep your beans well-hydrated, they will stop flowering, and reducing yields.

2. **Give them sun:** As mentioned earlier, beans need full sun. At least six to eight hours a day is necessary for healthy growth and maximum yields.
3. **Feed your green beans:** Fertilize your green beans once every month with a balanced liquid fertilizer at half strength. You can skip this if you used a slow-releasing fertilizer in your potting mix when planting.

A bit of compost manure is an excellent alternative to liquid fertilizer.

4. **Pinch out the tops:** When your pole beans reach the top of the beans pole pinch off the tops of the vines. This encourages the plant to channel more energy into producing more pods.
5. **Pick the pods:** You must regularly pick the bean pods to encourage your plants to grow more. Also, it doesn't hurt that green beans are more tender and **delicious** when small
6. **Weed your beans:** Weed your plants when necessary.



You can start picking the bean pods once they reach about 3 to 4 inches long. This usually takes about 45 to 65 days after planting. However, pole bean varieties give an extended yield. They produce throughout the growing season and are easy to harvest. Additionally, when you pick the pods regularly, you extend the growing season and your green bean's productivity.

Harvest your green beans when the pods are about 3 inches long with firm pods. Don't wait too long, or your beans will be tough.