

Scarlet Runner Beans

(also known as seven year beans)

Phaseolus coccineus

Soil: Rich soil, well-drained but with plenty of organic matter to retain moisture.



Position: Full sun or partial shade in warmer districts.

Frost tolerant: No.

Feeding: If soil is rich with organic matter, additional feeding is not required. If feeding is required, avoid using nitrogen-rich products..

Spacing: Depth = 1.5 – 2.5 cm

Spacing - Single Plants: 25cm each way (min)

Rows - 15cm with 35cm row gap (min)

Sow and Plant: Sow directly in late spring - germination is best if the soil is above 20°C. Preferring a cooler climate, pods will not generally set if ambient temps. rise above 30°C. Choose your spot wisely as these beans are a perennial, dying back in autumn and re-appearing in the spring. Growing up to 2 meters in height a trellis or other support is necessary.

Seed Saving: Collect pods as they brown off and the beans inside are full and plump. Allow pods to dry in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area out of direct sunlight. When fully dry, remove the beans, package, label and store in a cool, dry, dark place.

Harvesting: 10-12 weeks. Pick young pods regularly for steaming. Alternatively allow pods to mature and dry, storing the dry beans to create hearty winter dishes during the cooler months.

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