

1. Varieties

- Contender
- Butter Bean
- Labrador

2. Yield

A good crop of French bean will normally yield about 7 to 10 tonnes per hectare.

3. When to Plant

French beans can be grown all year round. However, best results are obtained during cooler months. For year round supply, plant a small patch every 3 to 4 weeks.

4. Seed Rate

- 45 to 50kg of seed will be required to plant one hectare of French bean.
- Seeds are available from commercial seed suppliers

5. Spacing

- French bean is planted 50cm between rows and 15 to 20cm within rows. This will give a total of 100,000 plants per



hectare.

6. Land Preparation

- Two ploughing and two harrowing is recommended for good soil tilth.

7. How to Plant

- French beans are directly sown into the well prepared plots. Irrigation is required in dry weather.

8. Fertilizer

- 10 tonnes per hectare of Poultry Manure should be incorporated in the soil 2 weeks before planting.
- 200 kg/ha of NPK (13:13:21) should be applied before planting as basal application
- 100 kg/ha of Urea should be applied in two split applications of 50kg/ha each at 2 weeks and 4 weeks after planting.

9. Weed Control

- Hand weed or hoe when necessary and apply weedicide Fusilade 45mls in 15 litres of water and spray at 4 to 5 leaf stage of weeds.
- Do interrow cultivation and mulching. To get quality produce the crop should be weed free at all times.

10. Pest Control

Aphids

- Apply Dimethioate at 15ml/15L of water (Sold as Rogor)

11. Disease Control

I) Powdery Mildew

- Apply Benomyl at 10g/15L of water. (Sold as Benlate) or Copper Oxychloride at 60g/15L of water (Sold as KOPI)
- Plough plant remains after harvest and rotate with mildew resistant vegetables like cabbage, tomato and eggplant.

II) Rust, Root Stem Rot and Angular Leaf Spot

- Apply Benomyl at 10g/15L of water. (Sold as Benlate) or Mancozeb 50gms in 15litres of water or use Kocide at 30g/15L of water to prevent fungal infections

12. Harvesting

- French beans are ready for harvest at 42 to 56 days after planting and should continue for a month. Harvest frequently while the pods are tender. Store the harvested produce in shade to maintain the quality.



13. Returns

One hectare of French bean if sold at \$1.00 to \$2.00/kg will fetch an income return of \$10,000.00 to \$20,000.00. The cost to produce 1kg of French bean is about \$0.16 to \$0.22.

14. Food Value

Source of dietary fibre, Vitamin C, Folate and Vitamin A.



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Ministry of Agriculture

Growing
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