

## Green Beans

Green beans come in two different shapes – round and flat. The round beans, like Blue Lake and the very slim haricots verts, need to be cooked quickly in order to preserve their delicate flavor and crispness. Flat beans such as Romano benefit from longer cooking since they take a few minutes to tenderize. Flat beans seem to have a beanier flavor.

Both round and flat green beans come in bush and pole varieties. They are advantages to each:

Pole beans start bearing a little later, but have a longer harvest. Bush beans bear earlier, so you can start picking them sooner. Early bearing is an asset in a short season climate.

Pole beans are easier to pick. They ripen a few at a time, which is good for eating fresh. Bush beans are harder to pick. They tend to come in a flush which is good for preserving.

Pole beans occupy space for the entire season, they don't fit into short rotation schedules. Bush beans take two to three times as much land for the same yield as pole beans.

Pole beans require supports that are 5 to 8 feet tall. They cast a lot of shade, which may limit where you can plant them.

As a general rule, the pole beans do much better in cooler summers, and bush beans do well in moderate to hot summers. There are numerous types of beans in both growth habits and a few, such as Blue Lake, can be found in both climbing and bush form.

Idea: (from Burpee)

Pole beans can be grown on a teepee or into a playhouse for young children. Try mixing a purple pole bean variety with a climbing nasturtium for a colorful walled playhouse that is both fun and good to harvest.

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<http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/scene8f63.html>

<http://www.burpee.com/gardenadvicecenter/vegetables/beans/growing-beans---pole-or-bush/article10325.html>