

Tips for Growing Green Beans in Containers

By Lee Beers – OSU Extension Trumbull County

Planting:

- Choose varieties with short “Days to Harvest” listed on seed packet – 50 days is good
- Use 6” pots or larger size
- Garden soil, or potting soil will work fine. Soil with fertilizer pre-mixed is preferred
- Moisten soil before adding to pot – damp sponge feeling is perfect
- Plant about 1” deep. We encourage kids to press their finger into the soil at three locations evenly spaced in the pot to the top of their first knuckle
- Place seed in the newly formed hole, and gently cover the hole with soil

Care:

- Place pots in a warm location until seedlings emerge – window sill may be drafty
- Once seedlings emerge move pots to a location that is still warm but that will also receive sunlight
- Water as needed, but don’t over water! If the soil feels damp that is all that is needed
- If placed near a window, rotate daily to allow sunlight to reach all the leaves for even growth

Pollination and Harvest:

- Green beans plants will produce either white or pink flowers around 30 days after planting (give or take a few days)
- Pollination is necessary for green beans to develop
- Once the flower is completely open, place cotton swap or paint brush into flower and twirl ***gently*** to collect pollen
- Do this to each open flower to transfer pollen – you want to pick up pollen, but also deposit pollen in each flower
- Once pollinated the flowers will shrivel up and turn brown – this is good!
- You will notice a small green bean begin to form
- Green beans can be harvested at any time, but it may be best to wait until they are 2-3” in length before picking. Do not attempt to let them get bigger than this stage as the plants will begin to decline quickly in the pots. Kids/teachers who plant green beans at home can let them get bigger in an outside garden, but in the containers I wouldn’t wait.

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