

Bean (long)

Vigna sesquipedalis (Fabaceae)

Fast Facts:

Acres in Washington: less than 50
Number of Growers: less than 50

Description of crop:

The long bean is native to Southeast Asia and is also known as the aparagus bean, snake bean, garter bean, long-podded cowpea, Chinese long bean and the yardlong bean. The plant is closely related to the black-eye pea and distantly related to the common bean. Long beans are a warm season crop that survives extreme humidity/heat and grows slower in mild/cold climates. It is a vigorous climbing annual vine usually grown on poles for support and can reach heights of 9-12 feet. The plant has large pink to violet blue flowers. The plant will continue to grow after flowering and fruiting. The different varieties of long beans can be distinguished by the different colors of their mature seeds. The long bean pods form 60 days after sowing and range in length from 12 to 30 inches depending on the variety. Generally the pods hang in pairs. Each pod will contain several edible seeds and are best if picked before they reach full maturity. Pods are eaten both fresh and cooked and should be picked for vegetable use when they are young and tender. They are commonly used in both in Asian and Indian cooking. In Washington, it is usually grown on small plots, by ethnic Asian growers for local Asian markets.

Key pests:

Weeds are the main pest problem in long beans. Occasionally, lygus and aphids may be a problem. Aphids may also spread a disease in long beans called the mosaic virus.

Key pesticides:

Weeds can be sprayed with RoundUp using a backpack sprayer in early spring. Black plastic can also provide weed control on beds. For lygus bugs and aphids, Lannate is applied in May.

Critical pest control issues:

Controlling aphid populations will help reduce the spread of the mosaic virus. Growers should always use virus and certified seed when possible. It is recommended that growers rotate their planting location every year for best results.

Expert contacts:

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**Location
of production:**

In Eastern Washington: Yakima County. In Western Washington: Whatcom,
Skagit, Snohomish, King and Pierce counties.

Pictures:



Long Bean





Long Bean Yard

Long Bean Production in Washington State



■ Area of Long Bean Production