

Beans (Snap)

Phaseolus vulgaris (Leguminosae)

Fast Facts:

Acres in Washington: 3,346 harvested for processing: 2,603 harvested for fresh market: 743 Number of Growers: 459 farms processing farms: 35 fresh market farms: 424 *Statistics Provided by the Washington Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS).

Description of crop:

Snap beans are of the same genus and species as dry beans. However, snap beans are harvested when immature rather than when ripe. Harvest generally is from late July to mid-September. Snap bean varieties are either climbing/pole type or bush/dwarf type. Bush beans are either green or yellow wax varieties. Climbing varieties are less common because they must be harvested by hand. Most bush types are harvested by machine. Snap beans are marketed as processed or fresh. In Washington, almost all snap beans are grown for the processed market. For the processing market, varieties with white seeds are used to avoid discoloration of the processed product. Snap beans thrive in warm, frost-free areas, but excessive heat can limit growth. Pest problems for snap beans are similar to pest problems of dry beans. However, pest pressure may be less extensive in snap beans because the crop is harvested earlier. Almost all snap beans produced in Washington are the bush type.

Key pests:

Insect pests include the seed corn maggot and the bean seed maggot. The maggots eat the seed and the germinating seedlings, thus causing indirect areas for bacterial and fungal rots. Other less significant insect pests are armyworms, cutworms, symphylans, spider mites and beet leafhopper. The beet leafhoppers transfer viruses such as curly top virus. White mold is a problem due to increasing bean production under center pivot irrigation systems. Nightshade is the number one weed pest since it stains the berries and can render the beans unusable for human consumption. Other weeds include barnyard barley, lambsquarter, Russian thistle and pigweeds in snap beans grown following another crop in the same season.

Key pesticides:

The seed corn maggot and the bean seed maggot can be controlled with Cruiser or Lorsban. Symphylans are controlled with Telone and Mocap. Leafhoppers are

controlled with foliar applications of Warrior or planting time applications of Cruiser. Spider mites are controlled with Capture, Di-Syston or Thimet. Sandea, and Treflan controls pigweeds and lamsquarter. Eptam and Poast will control grasses. White mold is controlled with the use of Topsin M or Rovral.

**Critical pest
control issues:**

Most seed except organic should be treated with a fungicide and insecticide to combat diseases such as damping off and seed corn maggot. Growers should try to use resistant cultivars whenever possible. Keeping low weed densities are essential in snap bean production since processors have a very low tolerance for contamination of bean crops. Certain crops that may harbor white mold, like lettuce, carrots, brassicas, potatoes, and cucurbits, should be avoided in rotation. Gray mold may be avoided by not planting beans following strawberries.

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**Location
of production:**

Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Stevens, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Walla Walla, Whatcom, Whitman and Yakima counties.



Snap Bean Production in Washington State

Snap Bean



■ Area of Snap Bean Production