

Home Gardening Series
Mung Beans

Craig R. Andersen
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Vegetables

Environment

Light – sunny
Soil – well-drained loam
Fertility – light-medium
pH – 5.5 to 7.0
Temperature – warm
Moisture – average

Culture

Planting – direct seed in warm weather
Spacing – 2-4 x 24-36 inches
Hardiness – tender annual
Fertilizer – light-medium

Mung Beans – *Phaseolus aureus* or *Vigna radiata*

Mung beans originated as one of the very ancient legumes of India. They are presently very common there and in Manchuria and China, where more than a hundred different kinds are grown. These beans are popular as bean sprouts in the United States. Mung bean seeds may be ordered

through a limited number of vegetable seed catalogs and are occasionally found in garden center seed racks. Seeds purchased in gourmet food stores can be planted to grow your own mung beans for sprouting.

Cultural Practices

Plant mung beans 1 inch deep and 1 inch apart. Allow 24 to 30 inches between rows. Keep free of weeds by shallow hoeing and cultivation. The beans start forming when the plants are 15 to 18 inches high.

Mung beans will be ready to harvest in about 100 days. Harvest the beans by pulling up the entire plant. Tie the plants in bunches and hang overhead or dry on clean papers on the floor, shed or garage. The beans can be easily shelled or flailed when completely dry. They can be stored for sprouting or planting the following year. (See gourmet and specialty books for information about sprouting and how to use the beans or sprouts.)

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Cultivars

Crop	Variety	Days to Maturity	Seed/ 100 Ft of Row	Sources (see "Sources" paragraph below)	Remarks
Mung Beans	Berken	80	2 oz	4, 28	Produces sprouts in 3-5 days, dry shell beans in 90 days. Small, olive-green beans; pods 3 inches long, up to 12 seeds per pod. Standard, widely adapted cultivar.

Sources

For a list of sources referred to by number, request FSA6106, *Seed Sources: Vegetable and Herb*, for current address, telephone and web site.

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