

ready for use at that time. To promote good setting of the pods pinch the top out of each stem as the plants begin to flower. If boiled like spinach, the tops of broad beans may be used as a vegetable. The broad bean plant will continue to produce pods for a longer period if the beans are picked as soon as they become ready to use. If the plants are allowed to mature the seeds, they cease flowering and die off.

Dwarf and Climbing Beans

Provided adequate moisture is available a supply of french beans can be maintained in northern districts from December until the plants are cut down by early-winter frosts. To secure continued harvesting the dwarf varieties should be planted every 3 weeks up to the end of January; two sowings of runner beans (one in September or October and one in January) usually give a continuous supply. In the colder parts of New Zealand the season for beans is much shorter, but should be spread over as long a period as possible by using the warmest positions for early and late sowings. Sown under favourable conditions dwarf beans produce their first beans in 7 to 9 weeks; annual climbing beans require 10 to 12 weeks. For late sowing a warm and sheltered position is desirable.

Beans grow well in most soil types, but prefer a good friable loam well supplied with organic matter. If the soil is reasonably fertile, the only manure required is a mixture of equal parts of superphosphate and bonedust sown along both sides of rows at the rate of 1oz. to 2ft. of row when the plants are well up. If artificial fertiliser is allowed to come into contact with the bean seed, it may cause poor germination.

Dwarf varieties should be sown in drills drawn out with a hoe 18in. to 2ft. apart and 3in. deep. The seed is best sown in a double row along the wide drill, the seeds being staggered; seeds should be spaced 3in. apart. Cover the seed with soil and rake the surface level.



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Where garden space is limited crops such as sweet corn can be grown with pumpkins.

Supports will be necessary for climbing beans. These may be provided by a wire-netting fence, preferably 6 to 8ft. high, the seeds being set 6 to 8in. apart in a single row each side and 5in. out from the netting. Alternatively, beans can be supported by wooden stakes 6 to 8ft. long placed in a double row and spaced 1ft. apart each way. The stakes are drawn together at the top and attached to a cross-stake; two seeds are set, one each side of the stake. Another method is to place 4 stakes 6 to 8ft. long 2ft. apart each way to form a square. The tops are drawn together wigwam fashion and tied, the operation being repeated to form a row of wigwams; three seeds are set to each

stake, one each side and one in front of the stake.

When vines of climbers are 2ft. 6in. high the terminal shoots of runners should be pinched off. This causes the flower buds to form much lower on the vines than if they were allowed to grow at will. This operation can be repeated when the vines have grown up another 2ft.

During dry spells watering may be necessary. If the roots are allowed to become dry, the flowers may fail to set satisfactorily. Frequent hoeing will suppress weed growth and help conserve moisture during dry weather.

Varieties

Recommended varieties for planting during December and January are:—

Dwarf: The Prince, Sydney Wonder, Surprise, and Tendergreen.

Climbing: Fardenlosa and Market Wonder.

Carrots

Carrots are an excellent winter vegetable, and the main winter crop may be sown this month. Successive sowings can be continued, and in districts where the carrot rust fly is troublesome carrots sown in December or later usually succeed without special precautions.

Soil moisture should be maintained, as dry conditions check growth. Good-quality roots of intermediate or stump-rooted carrots are usually secured in late autumn from December and January sowings, whereas by autumn earlier sowings have developed to a large size and become coarse.

Carrots do well without additional applications of fertiliser in soils which have been heavily manured for previous crops. The only fertiliser necessary for most other soils is a mixture of equal parts of superphosphate and bonedust applied at the rate of 2oz. a square yard. A dressing of wood ashes at the same rate will also be beneficial



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Kumara plants should be lightly hoed frequently and the ridges in which the tubers form should be maintained.