

Green Beans



Green beans are the second most common garden vegetable. Green beans are sometimes referred to as string beans or snap beans. In 2022 Illinois produced 88,267,200 pounds of snap beans on 11,200 acres of land. That's about 3,265,886,400 individual bean pods!

Green beans are easy to grow after the last frost in spring. After about 55 days, the plants will produce their first bean pods and are almost ready to be harvested. The plant will continue to form new flowers and produce beans if the pods are removed before the seeds mature.



Green Beans contain Vitamin C and K as well as fiber and beta carotene. They are also a good source of carbohydrates. Green beans can be enjoyed a variety of ways. You can grill, roast, steam, air fry, bake, or just eat them raw. One of the most common ways they are enjoyed is in casseroles.



There are two different types of green bean plants: pole beans and bush beans. Pole beans grow like a vine. They require a stake to climb and grow around. Bush beans are like a traditional garden plant. They do not require a structure to grow up. Bush beans can spread up to two feet wide!

Meet the Daughertys

Brad Daugherty | *Rainbow Acres*
Clark County



Tell us about your farm.

My youngest son, Aaron, and I have around 2,200 acres, and 1,000 of those acres are irrigated. We grow corn, soybeans, seed corn, seed beans, Mill Soft Red Winter wheat, and green beans. My oldest son, Brandon, helps farm with Aaron and I, and he also farms with his father-in-law.

How are green beans different than soybeans?

Green beans have a much shorter growing time than soybeans do. Soybeans are planted in the spring and harvested in the fall, which means farmers only get one crop each season. Green beans only have a 60 day growing season. Farmers plant in the spring and harvest in early July, and then they can turn around and plant again, harvesting a second time in October.



How do you harvest the beans?

We contract with Razorback Farms out of Springdale, Arkansas, who have harvest machines called pixalls. These are machines designed to harvest different kinds of beans. They bring their pixall machines to our farm to harvest the beans, and hire trucks to deliver the harvested beans to processing plants in Wisconsin.

How do you market/sell your green beans?

Razorback Farms, who we contract to harvest our beans, works with different processing plants like Del Monte, Green Giant, and Birds Eye Foods. Once they harvest our beans, Razorback Farms hauls them from our field straight to one or more of those processors where the green beans will either be frozen or canned.

All photos on this page courtesy of Brad Daugherty