

How to grow dwarf french beans

Sow your seeds in pots or trays from April to June.



Cover the seeds with about 3cm of compost and place the pots on a windowsill, in a greenhouse or in a cold frame.

Grow them on in the pots and after all risk of frost has passed, you can plant them outside.

Alternatively, you can sow your seeds directly into warm, moist soil from late May to June.

If your plants have been grown inside, get them gradually accustomed to the outside temperature for a week or so.

Plant 15-20cm (6-8ins) apart in well-drained, moist, rich soil (they prefer a warm, sunny location). Dwarf beans can also be planted in containers.

Water your beans regularly, especially during dry weather. Watch out for slugs and snails!

Pick the beans as soon as they're ready. Regular picking will encourage the rest of your beans to grow. Pick the pods with care, to avoid uprooting the plant.