

# Bush Bean - Blue Jay



**Planting Tip:** Beans do not like to be transplanted – sow them directly outside once your soil temperature has warmed up (late May or early June after fear of frost). Keep your soil moist but don't overwater. Water early morning and avoid wetting the foliage of your plants. For a steady crop of beans, plant seed every few weeks until mid-July.

**Harvesting Tip:** Pick your beans frequently, as the more you pick the more your plant will produce! Harvest gently, so not to damage the vines and always wait until after rain or morning dew has dried up before you harvest (this helps keep your plants healthy and disease-free!).

## The Story of the Blue Jay Bean

In 1977 a man named Russ Crow grew an early 19th Century French bean called “Comtesse de Chambord” in his garden in Illinois. He planted these skinny white beans alongside several other beans. That summer the bumblebees were very busy in his garden, moving pollen from one bean flower to the next. Russ saved some seeds from his bean plants to grow the following year. When those beans matured and were ready for harvest Russ found quite a surprise – some pods had a completely different coloured beans inside! The colours reminded him of the feathers of a blue jay bird so he kept some aside and labelled them “blue jays”.

*Happy Planting!*

**Notes:**

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