



Castanospermum australe

Black Bean Seeds

Growing Guide

Black Bean seeds look better when peeled! To peel the seeds, spread them out in the sun for a day, then soak in water for 2-3 days until the skin comes off easily. Change water every day.

It is best to germinate the seeds in a cell tray using any propagation mix. Push in with growing point down. After 2 weeks germination will start, but it will take longer if not peeled. After 8 weeks most seeds should be germinated.

To grow a multiple in 6-7 inch pot:

Pull out germinated seeds every 2 days, grade in required size, min. 2" high, up to 5" high depending on final size required, and plant equal size 3-6 per pot.

After potting, spray with Bonzi full strength as recommended on the label **careful to only spray early morning or late afternoon!** After spraying, the plants will continue to stretch a few more inches during the following days and will develop a nice dark green canopy.

Do not soak the seeds in Bonzi prior to planting as it will create irregular growth. In case the initial spray did not have the required effect (usually during good growing conditions), a second spray can be applied. Do not repeat Bonzi application more than 2 times.

It should take an average of 3 months from planting to finished product. The plants look best when grown to 10-12" high, multi planted (3-6) in a 6-7" pot with the green bean exposed on top of the pot.

Alternatively, after germination in cell tray, grade them and move them to another cell tray, preferably with more spacing, spray Bonzi and let the canopy fully develop before potting.

Topiary form: to finish in 7-8" pot with plant height of 20-24".

Use bigger cell tray (more spacing) and let them grow to 18-20". Without spraying Bonzi they will develop a somewhat stretched canopy under natural conditions.

Plant 4-6 plants of the same height in a pot, again with the seed exposed and the seed turned to the outside. Let roots develop for about two weeks at which point the stems can be braided. Remove bottom leaves during the process then spray with Bonzi 2-3 times during the following 3-4 weeks; the heads will turn dark green and the shape will improve.

General conditions:

70% shade factor, feed regularly like your other foliage plants.

Do not allow it dry out for a long period, otherwise, seeds may start to shrink.

During winter in Florida the process could be a little slower than indicated above.

Black Bean can be a very fast crop for you and is a very strong indoor plant without leaf drop. However, they need regular attention during cultivation. *It is recommended to appoint one person for the cultivation as he or she will develop a good feel for the product and produce a consistent quality crop.*

Seeds are imported from Australia and available from July to November. They can be stored for up to 12 months (with some losses). Storage temperature Celsius 8-10 degrees (Fahrenheit 47-50), RH 70%, good air circulation is important.

In principle, all seeds should germinate, but some losses from rot are acceptable, up to 20% if stored for long periods.

Please contact ForemostCo for additional information.

Please note that above instructions are only a guide and results depend upon the specific conditions of each producer.

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