Soybean

Glycine max

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 12 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Soya bean

Description:

High in protein and oils, this widely cultivated selection is a great addition to garden beds or large containers; grown in clusters of 3-5, hairy pods produce creamy colored beans that are versatile and delicious; fixes nitrogen, great for crop rotation



Soybean fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Edible Qualities

Soybean is an annual vegetable plant that is commonly grown for its edible qualities. It produces green long pods with creamy white flesh which are typically harvested when mature. The pods have a mild taste and a firm texture.

The pods are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Eating When Cooked/Prepared
- Cooking
- Drying



Soybean
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Soybean will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. When planted in rows, individual plants should be spaced approximately 12 inches apart. Because of its vigorous growth habit, it may require staking or supplemental support. This fast-growing vegetable plant is an annual, which means that it will grow for one season in your garden and then die after producing a crop.

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This plant is typically grown in a designated vegetable garden. It should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. This plant is capable of fixing its own nitrogen, which means that it is effectively self-fertilizing. As a result it should not require supplemental fertilizing, and if you do fertilize it, be sure to only use a low-nitrogen fertilizer to promote root growth. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided. This species is not originally from North America..

Soybean is a good choice for the vegetable garden, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.

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