

# SUNNYSIDE THYMES

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## A Gardener's Wish List

By Deb Slentz, SMG Member



### Beans - All-American Selection

As a fairly novice backyard vegetable gardener, I am always looking for plants and varieties that will prove to be successful. Before I joined Master Gardeners, I had never even heard of All-American Selections (AAS), which is the oldest independent testing organization of flower and edible varieties in North America: “Each AAS entry is tested for superior garden performance by horticulture professionals across America,” definitely an excellent resource for your garden selections.

This month, since we are highlighting beans, I have selected three varieties from AAS which are sure to be great additions to any vegetable garden.

- Kentucky Blue Pole Bean – This 1991 winner offers the excellence of two proven varieties, Kentucky Wonder and Blue Lake. Since it is a pole bean, of course, it requires staking and will grow 6-8 feet tall. The beans can be continuously harvested over a long season. The green pods are described as round and straight, sweet and tender. The seeds should be planted one foot apart. 58-65 days to harvest.
- Derby Snap Bean – This 1990 winner is noted for its excellent taste. It is a bushy plant up to 24 inches in height with an above average yield.

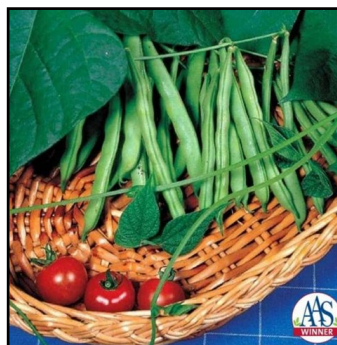
- It is described as having long, straight, thin, green pods that easily slip from the stem without the pedicel. It is resistant to lodging and common bean mosaic virus. The seeds should be planted 20 inches apart to allow for spread. 57 days to harvest.
- Mascotte Bush Bean – This friendly 2014 winner, which translates from the French “Mascotte” to American “Mascot,” is a symbol of good luck. It is a compact variety only 12-16 inches in height with a spread of 8-10 inches, making it a perfect choice for the small vegetable garden. It can also be planted in patio containers and window boxes. The slender pods stay above the foliage for easy harvesting, and this plant boasts showy white flowers for ornamental value. This green bean is noted for its crunchiness and taste. The plant also has high resistance to bean mosaic virus, anthracnose, and halo blight. The seeds should be planted 2-3 inches apart in rows 12 inches apart. 50 days to harvest.

All of these beans have easy requirements, full sun, and normal watering. Happy gardening!

Resources and photo credits: <https://all-americanselections.org>



Kentucky Blue Pole Bean (left)



Derby Snap Bean (right)



Mascotte Bush Bean