

Soybeans

Glycine max · Legume family

DIFFICULTY Easy
TYPE Annual, direct sown, warm season
MATURITY 80–120 days



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Regular



SOIL PH
6.0–7.0



SPACING
8–10cm × 45cm



DEPTH
3–4cm

01 Nitrogen fixers

A vigorous, bushy summer legume that fixes a good amount of nitrogen and can be picked young as edamame or left to dry for storage beans.



nitrogen-fixing nodules along the roots

may need a stake or trellis

02 Planting

METHOD	Direct sow once soil has warmed.
SOIL	Well-drained, moderately fertile.
TIMING	Sow in late spring once frost risk has passed.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

03 Growing care

- Water regularly, especially through pod fill.
- Weed while young.
- Pick young pods for edamame, or leave to dry for storage beans.
- Leave roots in place after harvest for the nitrogen benefit.

04 Problems

- **Bean fly** — can affect young seedlings; grow strongly to outpace damage.
- **Powdery mildew** — humid conditions; improve airflow.
- **Pod borer** — monitor developing pods.
- **Bird and rodent damage to seed** — protect at sowing.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	For edamame: pods plump but still green. For dry beans: pods brown and rattle.
METHOD	Pick pods by hand, or pull whole plants for dry beans.
CURING	Dry thoroughly if storing as dry beans.
STORAGE	Fresh edamame: fridge a few days. Dry beans: airtight, over a year.
PRESERVING	If eating fresh, see Freezing Produce (blanch and freeze); if left to dry, see Canning & Bottling for canning cooked beans.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Corn Cucumber	Onion Garlic	Excellent precursor to heavy feeders like corn or brassicas.