Beans

As a native protein source, beans have become a popular crop for Irish agriculture with approximately 8,000 ha grown annually. The increasing demand in the feed industry, coupled with government initiatives like the protein payment scheme, further emphasises their importance.

One of the key benefits of beans is their ability to fix nitrogen. As a legume, beans form a symbiotic relationship with nitrogen fixing soil bacteria, enabling them to convert atmospheric nitrogen into a plant usable form. This natural process reduces the need for nitrogen fertilisers in subsequent crops, further contributing to farm sustainability.

In crop rotations, beans offer numerous advantages. They not only improve soil health by adding organic matter and nitrogen but also help disrupt disease and pest cycles, particularly in cereal crops. This makes them an excellent strategic choice for maintaining long-term soil fertility and reducing overall nitrogen fertiliser requirements in crop production. Thus, beans represent a sustainable, environmentally friendly, and economically viable option for Irish farmers.

Winter beans can be sown from the end of October until the end of January. They present the opportunity for an earlier harvest enabling an efficient entry to wheat. Sowing dates for spring beans range from February to early April.

Tundra

Winter Beans

Agronomic Characteristics	Tundra
Yield (Relative yield) as % control	93
Earliness of maturity (1-9)	6
Straw length (cm)	104
Standing ability at harvest (1-9)	8
Resistance to Downey Mildew (1-9)	5
Resistance to Rust (1-9)	5
Resistance to Chocolate Spot (1-9)	5

Source: PGRO UK descriptive list 2024

Key Points

- ✓ Consistently high-yielding variety.
- ✓ Excellent resistance to lodging, minimising the risk of crop damage.
- ✓ Comprehensive agronomic package effectively combats Chocolate Spot and Ascochyta.
- ✓ Early maturing variety, allowing for a timely harvest date for improved crop management and market timing.

Lynx

Spring Beans

Key Points

- ✓ Tops the 2024 DAFM recommended list as the highest yielding variety of spring beans.
- ✓ Exhibits exceptional disease resistance, especially effective against Downy Mildew.
- ✓ Demonstrates strong brackling and lodging resistance, ensuring stable and healthy growth.

Caprice

Spring Beans

Key Points

- ✓ Offers a high yield potential.
- ✓ Shows moderate resistance to diseases such as Chocolate Spot, Downy Mildew, and Rust.
- ✓ Provides excellent resistance to brackling and lodging, ensuring robust crop growth and stability.

Agronomic Characteristics	Lynx	Caprice
Yield (Relative yield) as % control	102	98
% Crude protein	99	103
Plant height (cm)	129	126
Brackling resistance	8	7
Lodging resistance	9	8
Earliness of maturity	6	7
Resistance to Chocolate Spot	6	7
Resistance to Downy Mildew	7	7
Resistance to Rust	5	6

Source: DAFM recommended list

Winter & Spring Bean Seeding Rates

		Winter Beans		Spring Beans	
Sowing Date		Late-Oct	Late-Nov	Early-Feb	Mid-March
Target Plants/m²		20	25	30	35
% Establishment		75%	75%	85%	85%
Check individual labels for TGW	**TGW**	**kg/ha**	**kg/ha**	**kg/ha**	**kg/ha**
	500	133	167	176	206
	550	147	183	194	226
	600	160	200	212	247
	650	173	217	229	268
	700	187	233	247	288
	750	200	250	265	309
	TGW	**st/ac**	**st/ac**	**st/ac**	**st/ac**
	500	8.5	10.6	11.2	13.1
	550	9.3	11.7	12.4	14.4
	600	10.2	12.7	13.5	15.7
	650	11.0	13.8	14.6	17.1
	700	11.9	14.9	15.7	18.4
	750	12.7	15.9	16.9	19.7

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