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.

Lynx

Spring Beans

Key Points

- ✓ Joint top yielding spring bean variety for 2025 according to the DAFM recommended list.
- ✓ Exhibits exceptional disease resistance, especially effective against Downy Mildew.
- ✓ Demonstrates strong brackling and lodging resistance, ensuring stable and healthy growth.

Protina

Spring Beans

Key Points

- ✓ Joint top yielding spring bean variety for 2025 according to the DAFM recommended list.
- ✓ Potential to produce high crude protein amounts per hectare by converting atmospheric N into native grown protein.
- ✓ Excellent disease resistance profile which includes downy mildew, chocolate spot and bean rust.
- ✓ Early maturing variety, allowing for a timely harvest date for improved crop management and market timing.

Callas

Spring Beans

Key Points

- ✓ Offers high yield potential.
- ✓ Robust disease resistance including chocolate spot, downy mildew and bean rust.
- ✓ Holds a medium-early maturity with a good lodging resistance due to slightly shorter straw length.

Protein Aid Support Scheme

In 2026, The Department of Agriculture Protein subsidy scheme will provide up to €500/Ha for beans. This payment is automatically applied for when completing your Basic Payment Scheme online.

Agronomic Characteristics	Lynx	Protina	Callas
Yield (Relative yield) as % control	100	100	98
% Crude protein	100	104	102
Plant height (cm)	137	136	136
Brackling resistance	7	7	6
Lodging resistance	8	8	8
Earliness of maturity	6	7	7
Resistance to Chocolate Spot	6	6	6
Resistance to Downy Mildew	7	7	7
Resistance to Rust	5	6	6
Year first recommended	2019	2024	2026

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

		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%
	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