

# Tarahumara Purple Beans

Native Seed SEARCH Gardener Network - Darrol Shillingburg - Grower - Las Cruces, New Mexico - 2005

Catalog No/Crop name Tarahumara Purple Beans

Date planted: 7/29/05 Date transplanted into garden (if applicable): NA  
Date of 1st germination: 8/02/05  
No. seeds planted 46 No. seeds germinated (date): 45 (8/06/05)  
Did the crop receive full sun, partial sun, or full shade? Full sun until about 4:00 pm  
Date of first flower: 9/2/05 Date of 50% flowering: not recorded  
Date first fruit produced: not recorded  
What color are the flowers? Whiteish Do the dry pods have any markings? No  
Date of first dry pods: not recorded How tall is the plant at maturity? Off the top of a 6ft trellis  
Date of 1st harvest: not recorded Date of last harvest: November 14th - harvested last of the green beans. The plants were still producing new growth and blossoms - first freeze on 11/15/05  
Total weight (or number) of fruit produced throughout the season (approx.): no estimate  
I picked green beans through out the season and got dried beans - and harvested only green beans from late October until first frost.  
What form was the plant (viney, sprawling, compact bush, etc)? an excellent viney climber  
Did you provide a trellis or some support? How? Trellised on twine strung from bed to top of fence - about 6 ft.  
How do the immature, green pods taste? A very rich complex flavor Were they stringy? Pods with well formed seeds are a little stringy - but easy to string before cooking.  
How do the cooked (dry) beans taste? none cooked yet Are they easily shelled? Easily shelled but hold onto their seeds on the vine.  
Were the plants subject to any unusual or particularly harsh weather (hail, hard rain, early frost or freezing etc.)? When? How did they fare? one heavy rain - but nothing else  
Were there any problems with disease, fungus, insects, or other pests? How did plants respond? Did you use anything to treat the problem? How well did it work? No disease or pest problems  
Please provide an overall description of how you grew this crop, including a brief description of how you watered (hose, drip, rain only, etc.) and about how often (i.e., did it experience some drought, weekly soakings), whether it needed trellising, was it intercropped and with what, did it need extra shade, did the grasshoppers seem to like it particularly, etc.

Planted in an 8ft. row on about a 3" spacing. A ¼" drip soaker line was buried next to the planted row. The bed was 2 years old had had been planted in lima beans and onions. I planted Amish Melons in the bed with the beans - an experiment not to be repeated because of the difference in water needs. The beans are very vigorous growers in my sandy alkaline soil and are fairly drought tolerant. They take heat well, although I planted them after the hottest months. They grew foliage and blossomed until frost (Nov 15,05).

They were not inoculated before planting, being in a bed previously planted in lima beans.

The flavor of the green bean is unique and I think, better than any others that I have grown - although not as juicy as some. I will definitely plant more next year and start them earlier in the season.

Darrol Shillingburg  
Las Cruces, NM 88007  
2005 growing season



Seedlings - 8/02/05



Young Plants - 8/13/05



Blossoms - 9/02/05



Mature Bed - 10/21/05

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## Additional Photographs - Tarahumara Purple Beans



Dry Beans and Pods



Dry Beans