

Pole Beans grown on the Arbors (Pinwheel - Bed #5)



The Rattlesnake Pole Bean, (open pollinated) has been my favorite green pole bean for many years. It is a very flavorful heirloom snap bean and the dried beans can be used in soups or for baked bean dishes.



Monte Gusto Pole Bean (open pollinated)
Offered by Jungs. It is one of the better yellow pole beans that I have found.



Bean Arbors 2019

Trellising Pole Beans

There are two varieties of pole beans growing on separate cattle panel arbors. The yellow pole bean is Monte Gusto, a variety offered in several different seed catalogs. This is my favorite after trying several types of yellow pole beans over the years. The seed was originally purchased from Jungs. The other bean is the rattlesnake which has been my favorite green pole bean for many years. Both varieties are open pollinated, (not hybrids) meaning that plants will bear seeds which will produce plants that are identical to the parent plant. These arbors were planted quite dense. I sow seeds 6" out from both sides of each "leg" of the panel and at a 2" spacing between seeds, which is about 100 seeds per panel total. This dense planting works okay where there is adequate air circulation as we have here in this setting. Each arbor should yield 12-20 lbs. of beans. In hot weather one should pick almost on a daily basis. If some of the beans have grown beyond being palatable, leave them on the vine to mature and to be collected for next year's seed, or to be used for baked beans.

Cattle panel makes a great arbor for trellising pole beans and can be purchased locally. It is 16' in length and 50" wide, a little unwieldy to transport. Access to a trailer helps. I put together a makeshift 2" x 4" frame that I secure to a canoe rack to lay and tie down the panels. I have heard of other folks hooping them to fit into the box of a full-size truck. When setting the panel arbor, I use four metal stakes set in pairs at 40 inches apart and at 5 feet between the pairs as "stops" for the "legs" of the hooped panel. It is relatively easy to "walk" these panels into position. I also recommend using wire to secure the panels to the stakes.