

Seed Saving Level:

Beans



Several species of beans

Strategies to reduce cross-pollination:

Separate varieties by 100 ft or more or plant other flowering plants between different varieties of the same species. If the distance is less than 100 ft, the rate of cross-pollination is low. Favas/broad and runner beans have a higher rate of cross-pollination; so take precautions and plant only one variety of each.

Harvesting: Allow beans to dry on plants, about six weeks after the eating stage, before collecting and storing. If frost threatens, pull up the entire plant including roots and hang in a cool, dry place until the pods turn brown. Take beans out of pod to store.

Envelope tips: When saving seeds, consider including the following on the envelope: determinant (bush)/indeterminant (pole), days to maturity, use (dried, green, freezing, canning).