

Plants Grow Children

Dear Parents:

Today your child learned about the **Miracle of the Seed** in a special class taught by our volunteer Master Gardeners. The class learned about seeds and what is needed to make seeds grow. Each child had the opportunity to plant a Scarlet Runner Bean seed in a cup and bring it home. We hope you'll share with your child the wonder and joy of watching plants grow. Maybe later both of you can plant it outdoors!

The class was taught by WSU Extension Master Gardeners. Master Gardeners are volunteers who receive over 50 hours of formal training on a variety of gardening topics. In return for their training, the volunteers agree to return 50 hours of volunteer service to Extension. They return this service in a variety of ways, such as teaching our special plants classes in local schools, or answering gardening questions over the phone in the Extension office and in local plant clinics.

Master Gardeners provide free advice and answers to plant and garden problems. If you have a gardening question or want to know more about the WSU Extension 4-H Youth Program, contact your local county WSU Extension office.

Sincerely,

Benton-Franklin Washington State University Extension
&
The Benton & Franklin WSU Master Gardeners



SCARLET RUNNER BEANS

Scarlet Runner Beans are an ornamental AND edible climbing or trailing beans. They have lots of large leaves. They can provide summer shade when grown on wire, trellis, or strings. It bears large, showy sprays of bright red flowers, followed by loads of slender pods about 8 inches long. The young pods can be used as snap beans. Mature pods can be shelled for fresh use or dried for winter use. Beans should be ready to pick about 70 days after planting the seed for harvesting young pods or 115 days for shelled beans.

Plant the bean seeds in average soil in a sunny location after the last frost is past and the ground is warm, usually after May 1. Sow seeds 1 ½ to 2 inches deep. Keep soil moist. Plants emerge in 7 to 14 days depending on the soil and weather conditions. When the plants are 6 inches tall, provide something, such as a pole, wire, string, fence, trellis or netting, on which the vines may climb. As the bean plants get larger, pinch off upper growth tips to keep them within bounds.