

OBSERVATIONS ON A NEW BUSH BEAN FOR CENTRAL OREGON GARDENERS

J. Loren Nelson and Marvin Young¹

Gardeners in Central Oregon have a challenge in the selection of plant varieties adapted to the cool climate and short growing season. In 1984, the Central Oregon Experiment Station, in cooperation with the OSU Extension Service, observed a new bush bean variety (Blue Mountain Bush Bean) for home gardens.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This variety matures in 60-65 days and is resistant to curly top virus. It was developed by the Agricultural Research Station, Prosser, Washington. A few seeds were planted about 1.5 inches deep in a sandy loam soil May 24, 1984, at Redmond. This plot received 600 lb/A of 27-12-0 on March 20 and was incorporated at seedbed preparation. Irrigation was by sprinkler when needed. A stand of 18 plants with about two inches between each was observed. No plants of other bush bean varieties were available for comparison. The planting was not replicated and no statistical analysis was performed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Thirty-three percent of the plants had pods ready to be picked on August 14 (Table 1). The greatest yield of pods (1,027 grams) was obtained at first picking followed by the last picking date, September 4.

A sample of 71 pods from two plants taken on August 14 was measured. The average pod length was 5.3 inches. The longest pod was 7.7 inches. There was predominantly a large number of long slender pods at each picking date. Some of the longest pods touched the ground. The average diameter of these pods was slightly more than one-fourth of an inch. The average plant height was 22 inches. All plants were profusely branched. In general this new bush bean was rated better than average for taste and cooking qualities.

¹ Research agronomist, Oregon State University, Central Oregon Experiment Station, P.O. Box 246, Redmond, OR 97756 and Oregon State University Deschutes County Extension Chairman, P.O. Box 756, Redmond, OR 97756.

Table 1. Percent plants with harvestable pods and number and weight of pods harvested on four picking dates, Redmond, Oregon, 1984

Picking Date	Plants with Harvestable Pods (%)	No. Pods	Ave. No. Pods/Plant	Pod Wt. (gm)
August 14	33	150	25	1,027
August 17	78	90	6	421
August 21	83	47	3	171
September 4	89	157	10	815

The Agricultural Research Station at Prosser does not plan to release this bean for commercial production because it does not have suitable characteristics for mechanical handling. However, observation and experience show it to be very suitable for home gardens in Central Oregon. Evidently the seed will not be available commercially. So gardeners should plan to save their own seed. Leave the pods on 4-6 plants until they are "rattle" dry. Remove the pods and place them in a well ventilated area at room temperature. When pods are completely dry, remove the seed. To keep seed free from weevil infestation, place the seeds in the freezer for 24-30 hours. Remove from freezer, dust with Captan or other fungicide and store in a glass jar with a lid that seals.