

Grow Guide

Puerto Rican Cowpea

The Puerto Rican cowpeas are vining plants. They crave the heat of the summer in Florida and grow rampantly provided there is ample heat and rain. These beans may need some care when young, but can quickly become very robust plants in lesser cared for corner of the garden. The vines are rampant and produce best if allowed to climb onto other plants or a trellis. Fences make a fantastic trellis for these plants. Flowering only occurs during short days, meaning that no matter when they are planted the production still happens in the Fall. The earlier they are planted in the spring, the larger the plants will be when days shorten to support better bean harvests. The PR black bean dries well even if there is rain. The PR brown bean needs to be monitored closely as beans are drying as they will mold if the half-dry pods get rained on. When these cowpeas are in the fall drying season we visit the vines every day or two to collect dry beans. Dryness is indicated by seeds rattling inside the pod and shells becoming brown and brittle. Beans can be enjoyed unripe as shelled peas or allowed to be dried for dry beans.

