

# Sword Bean

## *Canavalia gladiata*

The jack bean and the sword bean are very similar. Pods reach a length of 10 to 14 inches, and a width of 1 to 1½ inches. Seeds are large, ½ to ¾ inch long and nearly as broad. Other names for them are Chickasaw lima bean, Brazilian broad bean, coffee bean, ensiform bean, horse bean, mole bean, go-ta-ki, overlook bean, Pearson bean, watanka, and raba de burro. Most of the jack beans seeds are white with a black seed scar, while the sword beans are red seeded. **If eaten thorough boiling is necessary in order to destroy a toxic alkaloid.**

**Type:** annual vine

**USDA hardiness zones:** 10 through 12

**Uses:** cottage garden; cutting garden; edible garden; container; border

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Height:** vine to 30 feet

**Spread:** vine 1 to 2 feet

**Plant spacing:** 2 to 4 feet

**Light requirement:** full sun to part shade

**Soil tolerances:** widely tolerant

**Drought tolerance:** good

**Soil salt tolerances:** unknown

**Invasive potential:** not considered a problem species

**Pest resistance:** no significant problems

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Photo: Kenpei