

Growth Habits and Different Names for Beans in Latin America

Bean Growth Habits

Growth habit is one of the most important characteristics for classifying bean varieties from the agronomic viewpoint. However, there are several superposing empirical classifications. People talk about bush beans, climbing beans, erect beans, and prostrated beans. Beans are morphologically classified as determinate or indeterminate depending on whether the terminal meristem is reproductive (determinate) or vegetative (indeterminate). This characteristic is genetically controlled. CIAT has designed a widely accepted classification scheme based on the former characteristic and on the type of plant development. The relationship between all these different classifications is shown below.

Different Classification Criteria of Bean Growth Habits

Genetics	CIAT		Popular	
	Simplified	Refined	Refined	Simplified
Determinate	I	Ia	Erect Bush	Bush
		Ib		
Indeterminate	II	IIa	Semi Climbing	Climbing
		IIb		
	III	IIIa	Climbing or Voluble	
		IIIb		
	IV	IVa		
		IVb		

Different Names for Beans in Latin America

The species *Phaseolus vulgaris* L. has several names in Spanish-speaking countries: *frijol*, *fríjol*, *frisol*, *fréjol*, *frejol*, *poroto*, *habichuela*, *habilla*, *caraota*, *judía*, *alubia*, and *chuwi*. The most widespread term is "frijol", which is used from Mexico to Panama, in Cuba, and in part of Peru. In Colombia it is known as "fríjol" and in the Antioquia region as "frisol". In Ecuador, it is called "fréjol", and in many regions of Peru, Bolivia, and Chile it is usually referred to as "frejol". The term "poroto", derived from Quechuan "purutu", is common in Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, and Bolivia. In Peru, the term "poroto" is used in many cases associated with certain varietal names. In the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, the species *Phaseolus vulgaris* is called

"habichuela". In Spain, the Arab word "Al loubia", which designates *Vigna unguiculata*, is used as "alubia" to refer to common beans.

The previous compilation of names is particularly important for Latin America, where different species of edible grain legumes are cultivated. Tables 1 and 2 show the different names given to beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) and other related species in Latin America.

Table 1. Names given to beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) and other *Phaseolus* species in Latin America.

Term	Country
Common names of <i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> L. consumed as dry grain	
Caraota	Venezuela
Frejol	Bolivia, Chile, Peru
Fréjol	Ecuador
Frijol	Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Cuba, Peru
Fríjol	Colombia
Frísol	Colombia (Antioquia)
Feijão	Brazil (name in Portuguese)
Habichuela	Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic
Habilla	Paraguay
Judía	Spain
Poroto	Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Panama, Peru, Uruguay
Dry bean	Name in English
Common names of <i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> L. consumed as vegetable	
Chaucha	Argentina, Uruguay
Ejote	Mexico
Feijão-vagem	Brazil (Name in Portuguese)
Habichuela	Colombia
Vainita	Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile
Tabla	Chile
Snap bean	Name in English
Common names of <i>Phaseolus lunatus</i> L.	
Frijol Lima	Latin America
Frijol Manteca	Argentina
Feijão-fava	Brazil (name in Portuguese)

Haba Pallar	Ecuador
Pallar	Peru
Lima bean	Name in English
Common names of <i>Phaseolus coccineus</i> L.	
Ayocote	Mexico
Multiflorus	Latin America
Pallar	Argentina
Popayán	Ecuador
Runner bean	Name in English
Common names of <i>Phaseolus polyanthus</i> L.	
Frijol Petaco	Colombia

Table 2. Names of other non-*Phaseolus* food legume species consumed in Latin America.

Term	Country
Common names of <i>Vigna unguiculata</i> L.	
Caupí	Latin America
Cumandá	Bolivia, Paraguay
Chiclayo	Peru (jungle)
Feijão de Corda	Brazil (name in Portuguese)
Frijol	Venezuela
Frijol de Costa	Central America
Frijol Camba	Bolivia
Frijol Castilla	Peru (coast)
Tumbe	Ecuador
Cowpea	Name in English
Common names of <i>Vigna radiata</i> L.	
Frijol Mungo	Latin America
Frijolito Chino	Peru
Feijão-Mungo-Verde	Brazil (name in Portuguese)
Loctao	Peru
Mung bean	Name in English
Common names of <i>Vigna angularis</i> L.	
Frijol Adzuki	Latin America
Feijão Adzuki	Brazil (name in Portuguese)

Adzuki bean	Name in English
Common names of <i>Cajanus cajan</i> L.	
Frijol de Palo	Peru
Gandú	Ecuador
Gandul	Puerto Rico
Guandu	Brazil (name in Portuguese)
Guandul	Dominican Republic
Quinchoncho	Venezuela
Pigeon pea	Name in English
Common names of <i>Dolichos lablab</i>	
Zarandaja, Lenteja Bocona Frijol Chileno	Peru
Tapirano	Venezuela
Other commonly used terms related to legumes	
Menestras	Dry grain legumes (Peru)
Dry edible beans (DEB)	In US these refer to beans, lima beans, cowpea, mung beans, chick-pea
Pulses	In US refers to dry grain legumes