

### **Conclusions from the Bean Trials**

The bean trials produced generally disappointing yields. Problems included difficulties at planting, heavy weed pressure and exceptionally heavy potato leaf hopper injury. Edible beans should be planted with a corn planter, which offers greater control over large and variable sized seeds.

Farmers interested in machine harvesting beans are likely to find *Maine Yellow Eye* and *Soldier* beans more suitable for machine harvest than *Jacob's Cattle* and *Vermont Cranberry*. The highest yielding beans were the *Black Turtle Soup*, and their dark color makes staining less of a concern. *Black Turtle Beans* also appeared to respond favorably to higher seeding rates and future research should consider optimum seeding rates for each variety.

Anecdotal information suggests that the market for edible dry beans is good and accessible. Further research into yield potential of edible dry beans in Vermont and local marketing opportunities should be undertaken.

### **Publicity**

During the growing season two field days were held at Mount Independence Farm. Publicity for these events was done through the UVM Extension System and included mailings to persons attending winter small grain workshops in Vermont and announcements in Country Folks and Agriview. Also during the summer a sample of the wheat varieties grown in the trial were collected and made into a display shown by Extension at the Addison County Field Days.

Following the completion of the research a report was written on the trials and published in Cultivating Connections a publication of the University of Vermont's Center for Sustainable Agriculture. A full set of photographs documenting the research is available and will be used in future Extension presentations.

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