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Phaseolus

Leguminosae

[*Fabaceae/Papilionaceae*]

Phaseolus is derived from a Greek name *phaselos* and classical Latin *phaselus* for a kind of bean.

These species are native to the New World eg. North or South America. They only appeared in Europe after the 15th Century.

In addition to specific mention below foliage of some species may be poisonous.

Members of this family absorb nitrogen from the air. Through the bacterial nodules on their deep growing roots, they will introduce nitrogen to the soil (and aerate it), to the benefit of neighbouring plants and any following them in the same soil.