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Vigna

Leguminosae

[*Fabaceae/Papilionaceae*]

Vigna commemorates an Italian physician and botanist, Dominico Vigna (1577-1647), who was professor of botany at Pisa. His works include *Animadversiones sive Observationes in libros De historia et De causis plantarum Theophrasti*.

Members of this family (*Leguminosae*) 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.

BEAN is generally cultivated as an annual and can reach a height of 1-10 ft. according to species or cultivated variety. The pods vary in size and shape according to species or cultivated variety too.

Beans in this family are native to the Old World and have been eaten in India, China, Japan and neighbouring countries for thousands of years.