Simplest of Mesh (soybean pods)

TASK: Use gradient mesh to create at least 3 different fruits/vegetables and their accompanying foliage. That's 4 altogether, 3 of your own plus the reproduction of this soybean cluster. (*You need not design everything on a single page, but please turn in everything on a single page*.)

1. Draw a bean pod outline using the Pen Tool
2. Fill it with a medium green gradient
3. Option/Copy a total of 3 bean pods, distorting them slightly so they DO NOT ALL LOOK ALIKE (pull anchor points, rotate, free distort, stretch a little, adjust gradient, scale, etc.)
4. Draw a pea using the Ellipse Tool and fill it with a lighter shade of green
5. Deselect pea and load the fill tile in the toolbox with yellow
6. Click UNSELECTED pea with Mesh Tool near or at its center
7. Option/Copy the pea to make 4 peas each in 3 bean pods, distorting the peas slightly so they DO NOT ALL LOOK ALIKE (they get a little smaller towards the tapered end of the pod)
8. Draw a vine with Pen Tool and arrange components to look natural. Use Stroke Palette to change vine ends to round
9. Experiment with Mesh Tool applied to bean pods (optional)
10. Finish with 25% drop shadow
11. Try using Google "images" to download fruits and vegetables that can be placed as a template to trace, or draw them free hand. (I used the search terms *FRUITS VEGETABLES SINGLE*)

Notes:

- Each click of Mesh Tool adds more gridlines and color
- To delete individual "nodal" points, hold down the "option" key while clicking with Mesh Tool.
- Use Direct Select Tool to select individual points to change color and to pull handles to change shape
- Clicking in the center of a "patch" with Direct Select Tool selects points in adjacent area
- Use Lasso Tool to select groups of points
- Any object can be made into a "mesh object" by simply selecting it and Object>Create Gradient Mesh. This brings up a dialog box allowing you to choose the number of rows and columns.
- Consider using the Smooth Tool to clean up bad contours