

Another Way to Grow Climbing Beans

(Runner and French)
(Comparison with Usual Method)

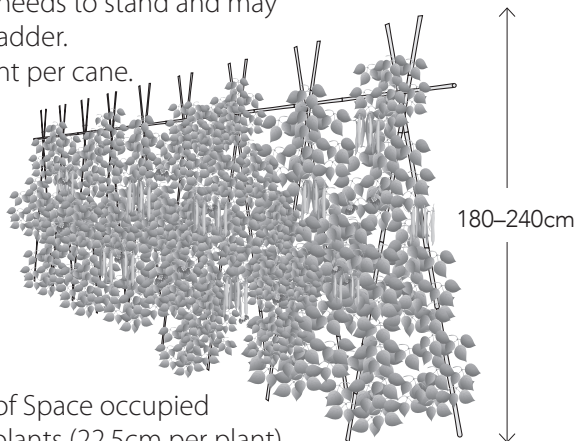
1. CONSTRUCTION

Usual supporting frame

Pairs (sets) of vertical bamboo canes - height 1.8m – 2.4m (6' – 8') – crossed and tied together to make a 'V', linked by one or more horizontal canes along the top in the 'V's', then tied to the vertical bars to form an unbroken line of plants.

Grower needs to stand and may need a ladder.

One plant per cane.



Length of Space occupied by two plants (22.5cm per plant).

The long canes need a generous amount of space for storage over winter.

Loop frame

Three connected sections forming single rust proof looped metal bar (See diagram) = One set.

Three plants – Two opposing climbers along the horizontal – one dwarf below the horizontal.

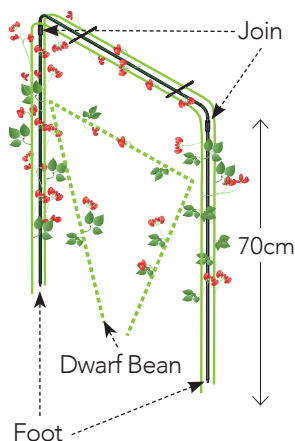
Grower can set the frame at the most convenient height – suggested height of horizontal above ground 70cm (height of a table).

Length of space occupied by three plants 64cm.

The sets are not linked.

A set may be placed on its own or near others, and face any direction **making best use of the total area of the plot.**

The looped bar breaks down to three bars each needing very little space for winter storage.



2. YIELDS (References below *)

Usual frame

Per Set (two climbers): Achievable yield
2 x 1000g : Kg 2.00

Loop Frame (Potentially)

Per Set (two climbers, one dwarf): Minimum yield
2 x 1000g, 1 x 500g : Kg 2.50
Two plants – one on each frame yielded Kg 3.812 per plant (Stenhouse Allotments) and Kg 3.270 per plant (North Bournemouth Allotments) Season 2021.
Further trials to take place in 2022.

3. OTHER POINTS

Usual frame

- At risk of wind damage in parts of the UK.
- Complicated structure – may deter novice gardeners and those physically challenged.

Loop Frame

- Little risk of wind damage
- Simple structure may appeal to novice gardeners and growers with physical challenges.
- Growers can construct and harvest while seated.
- May also be used in raised beds with soil depth 30cm or more.

Gardeners looking to grow climbing beans for the first time may be interested in beginning with the simple looped frame.

* References – Normal Yields

- 1) Email from *Which? Gardening* 15/11/2019.
"Beans produce plentiful crops so to avoid being overwhelmed, the trick is to grow just the right amount of plants for your needs. In the *Which? Gardening* trial, most varieties produced at least 0.5kg per plant, and our Best Buy runner-bean varieties produced up to 1kg per plant in a season. So a single wigwam of a dozen plants would be plenty for a small household of 2–3 persons."
- 2) Email from *RHS Gardening Advice* 4/1/2019.
"The yield of a dwarf runner bean is about 400g per plant. For climbing runner beans the figure is about 1000g per plant. Watering plants well when they are in flower (or failing to water well) will significantly influence yields."
- 3) *Which? Gardening and RHS Vegetable & Fruit Gardening*, 2013, p. 242



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