

AERON PURPLE STAR

Runner Beans

These beans have been bred by me (*Gwilym ab Ioan in Aberaeron, Ceredigion, Wales*), from a 'Polestar' cross that's been selectively bred over many years. The young plants have green pods, as they develop, the pods become a maroon colour and as they mature the pods turn a totally unique deep purple/ black colour.

The bean pods are fleshy & totally stringless. The taste is superior to 'Polestar' which is an RHS AGM winner.

The plants are unusually vigorous and achieve a height of 12' (3.7m)+. The pods, when mature, reach an average length of around 12 – 14" (30 – 35cm). Cultivation and culinary use is as for normal runner beans.

Sowing Tips : According to the late, great, Brython [Taffy] Stenner (the breeder of the world famous show bench 'Stenner' bean); for uniformity of germination and for ideal growth, runner beans should be planted vertically. The small 'nib' on the scar of the bean seed should always point downwards. For best results plant beans in peat "jiffy" pots (I use spent toilet roll tubes) using a good peat compost in an unheated greenhouse or cold frame between March & April. When the danger of frost in your area has passed, transplant the seedlings outside - in their 'pots' without disturbing the roots. If they are to be sown directly into their permanent position then sowing should be delayed until at least the middle of May in more northern areas of the UK.

Soil preparation : In autumn or early spring dig out a trench about 4' (120cm) wide and approximately 18" (45cm) deep. Line the bottom of the trench with a thick layer of old newspaper. Fill in the trench to within 6" (15cm) of the top with well rotted farm yard manure or garden waste compost (or both). Back-fill the trench with soil into a mound – forming a flat raised 'bed'.

Sowing/ planting : Sow your beans (or plant your seedlings) 9 - 10" apart alongside each support that should be at least 10' (300cm) high. You can use a traditional (ridge), or wigwam frame. I use what I call a "V" frame support of my own design. If you want to see a full sized diagram of it go to:

http://aeronvale-allotments.org.uk/pdfs/RunnerBean_V_Frame_diag.pdf

These beans are not available commercially. You are welcome to harvest the beans for your own future cultivation and to pass them around your friends & other fellow amateur growers in your locality. The only stipulation I make is that they retain the name AERON PURPLE STAR

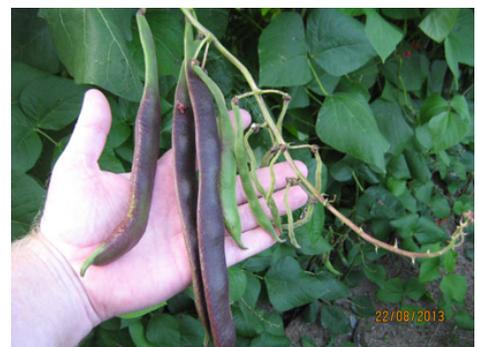
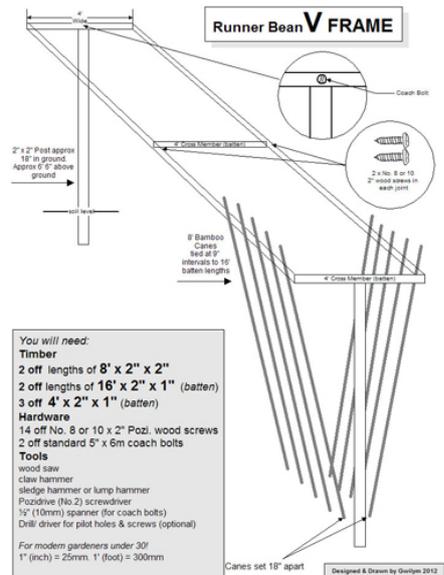
Seed Bean Harvesting : If you intend keeping your own seeds then it's highly recommended that you grow them in isolation away from the near vicinity of other varieties. Runner beans are notorious for cross pollinating. If they are grown near other varieties you run the risk of any bean seeds you save not coming 'true' the following season, with some of your Aeron Purple Stars possibly producing a cross bred green pod and displaying different characteristics – possibly inferior taste, stringiness and no purple pods!

Pollination and Isolation: Runner beans are pollinated by bumblebees mostly they cannot cross with other types of beans, though they will cross with other runner beans quite readily. For this reason I recommend a minimum isolation distance of 800m between runner bean varieties to be certain of maintaining variety purity.

If you know of other runner beans being grown within 800m of your plot, or if you wish to save seed from two or more types of runner bean on your own plot, isolate varieties either with a fleece bag around each truss or with a large insect proof cage around several plants. It may be easier to cage a wigwam support rather than a row. You then have to hand pollinate each newly opened flower with a small fine bristled brush. Do this by hand each day, simply pressing down on the lower (left) keel of each newly opened blossom to mimic a bee landing. Then use the brush to transfer the pollen from anther to stigma. You should use pollen from another plant of the same variety rather than from the same flower or plant. If you are growing more than one variety, remember to wash and dry the brush between pollinating sessions.

FEEDBACK | COMMENTS | REVIEWS Please let me know your thoughts on the AERON PURPLE STAR that you've grown at:

http://gardenerschat-shed.net/forum/aps_feedback_form.htm



To CONTACT me go to web : <http://aeronvale-allotments.org.uk>

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