

Go big on beans with this fantastic frame

Mark Rayner shows how to build a frame that makes bean picking easy.

You will need:

- Piece of trellis measuring 1.2m x 1.8m
- 50mm x 50mm treated timber cut to:
 - four pieces measuring 1.9m (legs)
 - four pieces measuring 1.2m (top and bottom supports)
- PVC coated washing line
- 4 x metal brackets
- 75mm galvanised jolt head nails
- 30mm galvanised flat head nails
- Galvanised fencing staples
- 600mm length of galvanised chain

- 2 x 100mm stainless steel or zinc plated butt hinges
- Exterior PVA glue
- Hammer
- Large set square
- Pliers
- Screwdriver
- Resene Quick Dry acrylic primer undercoat
- Resene Lumbersider tinted to Resene Red Hot
- Paintbrush

Note:

To secure the bean frame, stand it upright (you may need two people for this), then sink the metal brackets into lightly cultivated soil until the bottom of each leg is just touching the ground. Then firm down the soil around each bracket.



This frame could also support a cucumber or an ornamental climber, such as sweet peas, up its other side. It could also be used as a screen in the flower garden.



Working on a level surface (such as concrete), attach the trellis to two legs with 30mm nails and PVA glue, then attach two top and bottom supports, as shown, fixing them at each corner with two 75mm nails and PVA glue.



Turn the panel over and attach the trellis to the top and bottom supports, using 30mm nails and PVA glue.



Construct a similar rectangular frame using the other two legs, and top and bottom supports. Again, fix at each corner with two 75mm nails and PVA glue. Use a large set square to ensure the corners are at right angles.



Attach the length of washing line to the back of the front panel using staples, as shown, and ensure each length is evenly spaced about 150mm apart. Cut washing line with pliers.



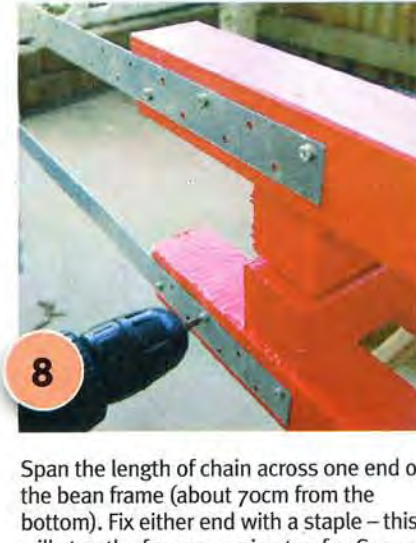
Place the two panels on top of each other and fix together, screwing the butt hinges at either end of the top edge, as shown.



Paint the trellis and wooden frame with one coat of Quick Dry primer undercoat and allow to dry for at least an hour.



Paint the trellis and wooden frame with two coats of Resene Red Hot, allowing two hours for each coat to dry.



Span the length of chain across one end of the bean frame (about 70cm from the bottom). Fix either end with a staple – this will stop the frame opening too far. Screw metal brackets to each foot, as shown.

Top tip:

To secure the frame even further you can sink two garden stakes into the ground at either end and fix to the bean frame with galvanised bolts.