

Thus the long-term aim is a self-fertile bush P. coccineus with large white seeds borne in short pods held well clear of the ground which is both early and even in maturity.

REGISTRATION OF NEW NAVY BEANS

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Four new navy bean varieties have been submitted for official trials and registration to the National Institute of Agricultural Botany in Cambridge, England. These have been named respectively Tempest, Ajax, Columbus and Chichester. The first, while still a determinate bush type variety in plant habit, is partially indeterminate in growth, i.e. new vegetative growth will develop if rain occurs after pod initiation or period of extreme drought. The other three varieties flower, under north European conditions, as early as Seaway and Seafarer, though have a slightly longer flowering period. All four varieties, and many other related lines, have been tested in trials in Holland, France, Germany, Portugal and South Africa, as well as in the United Kingdom. The yield potential of Tempest is substantially higher under long growing seasons than that of Seaway or Seafarer. The other three varieties have yet to be precisely evaluated.

These lines have been developed since 1968 partly in Uganda and partly in the United Kingdom and are entirely without any Michigan germplasm. No claim is made that this is necessarily an advantage! All the material shows substantial resistance to African races of rust. The parental material goes back originally to three sources, the variety Cuarentino, as selected at Yangambi in Zaire, a variety Kabanima, selected out of the 64 UV population described in Leakey 1972 and the small, black seeded indeterminate bush variety Mexico 11. Details of the breeding can be made available on request.

Leakey, C.L.A. 1972 Crop Improvement in East Africa C.A.B. Farnham Royal, Bucks. England.

REGISTRATION OF A NEW RED KIDNEY BEAN

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Horsehead is not plain red in seed colour, but a dark red-mottled kidney bean which, however, when cooked and prepared is indistinguishable from a dark red kidney bean. The mottle colour is similar to that in several beans from Colombia, South America, though the basic colour is a deeper slightly purplish red.

Horsehead is an early maturing, very rigid determinate variety, holding its pods well clear of the ground and has anthracnose resistance

derived from the are gene. It results from a cross between the Colombian variety Diacol Nima and the French variety Cofinel and is a reselection from an F7 progeny trial of Uganda bred material grown in Cambridge in 1972. In that trial a single line showed outstandingly early maturity under UK conditions, and I am indebted to Dr. John Hamblin for having drawn my attention to this. Anthracnose resistance testing was carried out at the French National Institute for Agronomic Research at Versailles and Dr. Bannerot's assistance is gratefully acknowledged. The reselected line previously designated 10/3/8/3b has been tested in the UK, France, Germany, before being entered for official trials.

The name Horsehead alludes to the use in traditional French cooking of red kidney beans (the old French variety Rognon du Coq - Cock's Kidney - being well-known) for the preparation of special dishes from horses' heads. However, the new variety is expected to provide a satisfactory substitute for whole colour red kidney beans in other dishes, such as Chili con carne.

DWARF BEANS

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Breeding

Halo blight resistance

Halo blight-resistant breeding lines were sown in isolation late in November 1973. The beans were inoculated early in January 1974 with a mixture of halo blight races 1 and 2. The disease developed rapidly under the humid conditions prevalent in February, allowing selection to be made for resistant plants. Of the cultivars and lines screened for resistance to halo blight, the following were found to have neither leaf nor pod infection at the time of recording: Wisconsin HBR40, G.N. Nebraska No. 1 Sel. 27, P.I. 140414, 'Shiny Fardenlosa', 'Mangere Pole', and several South American cultivars. This material will be further tested and included in the breeding programme.

SOUTHERN COOPERATIVE SNAP BEAN VARIETY TRIALS

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The 1975 Southern Cooperative Snap Bean Variety Trials were conducted by cooperators in 9 southern states. The trials, as usual, were in two