**MAINTENANCE: Looping and Mulching**

**Goal 1:** to keep the vanilla at reachable height  
**Goal 2:** to promote root formation at the nodes covered by mulch  
**When:** as soon as a vine is long enough to be redirected toward the ground, reach the mulch and shoot upward  
**Tools:** ☑ mulch ☑ bush ladder ☑ wheelbarrow  
**FACTS:** Rooting of the new shoots every time the vines are looped and mulched helps the plant to grow faster and stronger. Receiving more nutrients, the plant will be able to flower early, support more beans, and be more resistant to diseases.

**PROCESS:**
1. Gently detach the vine’s hanging roots from the support branch.  
2. Hang the vine over one of the support tree branches.  
3. Direct the vine down towards the mulch.  
4. Lay 2 or 3 nodes of the vine over the mulch and cover with new mulch.  
5. Redirect the growing apex upward.  
6. Tie the vine (if necessary) with a bush twine, tree bark, banana / pandanus leaf or similar.  
7. The vine will keep growing and eventually new buds will shoot laterally, soon multiplying the number of vines growing on a plant.

*Repeat the process for all the vines.*

**WARNING!**  
DO NOT leave looped vines uncovered!
1. Look for new shoots long enough to reach the ground and shoot upwards.

2. Gently detach the vine from the support branch. Hang the vine over the support tree and direct it toward the mulch.

3. Lay 2 to 3 nodes of the vine on top of the old mulch.

4. Redirect the apex upward and cover the vine with new mulch. Tie the vine if necessary.
GOOD MULCHING WILL HELP THE ROOTS GROW

YES!
New roots developing on the looped vines covered by the mulch.
MULCHING - WHAT TO DO AND WHAT NOT TO DO!

Good mulch... BUT the new loops are left uncovered on top of the mulch.

NO! Uncovered vines are burnt by the sun.
This plant has a very small amount of mulch protecting the initial roots. But without any looping to promote new roots the plant will be unable to support the beans.

No mulch and no looping! - this plant has no ground roots to bring nourishment to the plant - only a few aerial roots are keeping the plant barely alive.

This plant has no looping and no mulch. It cannot grow new roots and will be unable to flower.
3.8.2

CULTIVATION TECHNIQUES

YES! A plant with numerous loopings covered with mulch will grow new roots and become stronger over the years. Only plants with a lot of roots will be able to flower and bear strong healthy beans.