

WHAT DOES IT COST TO GROW BLACK EYE BEANS
IN THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY DESERT VALLEYS

(Based on 900% Yield - 1/2 Year Land Utilization, Palo Verde Valley)

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS		YOUR COSTS	
	Per Acre	Per CWT.	Per Acre	Per CWT.
<u>Preparation and Planting</u>				
Disc 2x, 1 man, 1 tractor	\$ 4.00		.....	.....
List 1x, 1 man, 1 tractor	1.50		.....	.....
Pre-irrigate 1x @ 80¢ per man hr. (PVV):	.40		.....	.....
Harrow ridges, 1 man, 1 tractor	2.00		.....	.....
Plant	1.00		.....	.....
Ditch and miscellaneous	1.60		.....	.....
PREPARATION AND PLANT TOTAL	\$10.50	\$ 1.16	.....	.....
<u>Cultural Labor and Field Power</u>				
Cultivate 2x.	\$ 3.00		.....	.....
Irrigate 4x @ 40¢	1.60		.....	.....
CULTURAL TOTAL.	\$ 4.60	\$.51	.....	.....
<u>Materials</u>				
Irrigation water @ 1/2 annual PVV cost.	\$ 6.00		.....	.....
Seed - 20% @ 15¢	3.00		.....	.....
Sacks - 9 @ 40¢	3.60		.....	.....
Miscellaneous	1.00		.....	.....
MATERIAL COST TOTAL	\$13.60	\$ 1.51	.....	.....
<u>Cash Overhead</u>				
Interest on operating cash.	\$ 1.45		.....	.....
Taxes - 1/2 annual PVV cost	2.00		.....	.....
Insurance . . . . .	.50		.....	.....
Misc. (care of office, phone, etc).	1.00		.....	.....
CASH OVERHEAD TOTAL	\$ 4.95	\$.55	.....	.....
<u>Harvesting</u>				
Cut and windrow 1x each	\$ 2.50		.....	.....
Combine at contract	7.50		.....	.....
Haul to warehouse @ \$2 per ton. . . . .	.90		.....	.....
HARVEST TOTAL	\$10.90	\$ 1.21	.....	.....
<u>TOTAL CASH COST</u>	\$44.55	\$ 4.95	.....	.....
Rent @ 1/2 annual cost.	\$20.00	\$ 2.22	.....	.....
TOTAL COST.	\$64.55	\$ 7.17	.....	.....

The above sample costs are based on commercial or contract rates and average yields and were developed with the help of growers in the area. Costs will vary widely — compute your own costs by filling in the last two columns.

PROFITS = YIELD X PRICE - COSTS

BLACKEYE BEAN PRODUCTION
DESERT VALLEYS, RIVERSIDE COUNTY

GENERAL: Although blackeye beans (cowpeas) are not as well adapted to the desert area as to the western portion of the county, yields of 900 pounds per acre have been secured in the Palo Verde Valley. Moreover, in favor of blackeye beans are its soil building and nitrogen manufacturing faculty. They follow barley on a double crop basis and are harvested early enough to be followed by another barley crop.

SOIL - WATER: Blackeyes prefer medium soils but with proper irrigation management will do well on sandy or on heavy soils. Alkali soils should be avoided. On light soils 6 to 7 irrigations may be needed. On heavy soils following a good pre-irrigation only four irrigations may be necessary.

VARIETIES: Blackeye Number 5, a University of California developed nematode resistant variety, is recommended.

LAND PREPARATION AND PLANTING: Following a grain crop the land should be disced to bury the stubble. The land may be pre-irrigated by listing to the same width as the row spacing which will be used for planting following the pre-irrigation by harrowing down the ridges.

Plant: 15 - 20 pounds per acre in 24-40 inch rows to a depth of 2-3 inches into moist soil.

When: For summer crop plant March 15 - April 15. For Fall crop July 1st - August 1st is recommended. If planted later than August 1st there is danger of frost.

Be Sure To: Inoculate with cowpea inoculum unless you are sure your land contains the blackeye legume bacteria. Use treated seed (Semesan, Aresan, or Spergon - 3 ounces per 100 pounds of seed). On early (April) plantings treat with 2-4 pounds of 25% lindane per 100 pounds of seed for wireworm and seed maggot control - not over 6 weeks before planting.

FERTILIZER: If properly inoculated, beans supply their own nitrogen. Unless you plant following a heavily phosphated alfalfa field, apply 60 to 80 pounds per acre of actual phosphate in the Palo Verde Valley (i.e. 130 to 175 pounds of treble superphosphate per acre.)

INSECTS: Lygus bugs cause seed injury resulting in lowered value. Spider mites may at times, be damaging. Fall crops may be attacked by lesser corn borer on emergence. Flood irrigation is the only known control.

HARVESTING: Generally beans are cut with a sub-surface cutter and carefully windrowed. Grain harvesters often need considerable adjustment in clearance and cylinder speeds and screens for bean harvesting. Windrow pick-up attachments are necessary.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY CALIFORNIA PRODUCERS PER CWT:

1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
12.46	14.39	9.10	12.60	9.01

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