

PEANUTS

Sample

Costs of Production

Suggestions on Growing

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A B O U T T H E S E C O S T D A T A - - -

The costs of production in any agricultural enterprise will vary considerably from ranch to ranch. The input and cost data in this booklet are sample costs. They are intended to be used only as educational guides in assisting you to appraise and plan your own crop and livestock program.

These cost data do not represent industry averages.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
 SUGGESTIONS ON GROWING PEANUTS

By Roy M. Barnes - Farm Advisor

SOIL REQUIREMENTS:

Peanuts are adapted to well-drained sandy and sandy loam soils. The pegs can penetrate these soils readily. Lifting out at maturity is easier without soil clinging to the nuts and fewer nuts are pulled loose and left in the ground.

VARIETY:

In Kern County the Spanish strains of peanuts are produced commercially. Argentine variety is grown predominantly. It yields well and is adapted to irrigated conditions. Other varieties which have been grown successfully are Dixie Spanish and Spantex.

SEED TREATMENT:

Seed decay and seedling injury can be prevented by chemically treating the seed. This is one of the surest ways to obtain better stands. The chemicals used for treating peanut seeds are: Arasan, Thiram 50, Spergon or Phygon.

Arasan and Thiram 50 are used at the rate of 2 ounces per 100 pounds of seed; Spergon and Phygon at the rate of 3 ounces per 100 pounds of seed.

Inoculating the seed with the proper strain of bacteria is necessary particularly when planted on ground which has not grown peanuts previously. Since new strains of bacteria are

COST ANALYSIS WORK SHEET

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE PEANUTS IN KERN COUNTY - 1968

Based on man labor at \$1.70 and \$1.90 per hour, including compensation insurance and Social Security; on a 35 HP wheel tractor cash cost per hour \$1.30; Depreciation \$.70; Interest \$125.00 per acre and 10% on investment.

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Operation	Hours Per Acre	Cash and Labor Cost Per Acre			Sample Costs	Total Costs
		Labor	Fuel and Repairs- Equipment	Materials and Other Costs		
Cultural:						
Land Preparation	2.5	\$4.75	\$3.25		\$8.00	
Plant & Fertilize (2 men)	1.5	1.80	.65	Seed: 65 lbs. @ \$1.20 = \$78.00 Nitrogen: 1.85 cwt @ \$9.00 = \$16.65 Water: 3 1/4 ft. @ \$6.00 = \$19.50		
Irrigate	6.0	10.20	2.50			
Cultivate	1.5	2.85	1.95		4.80	
Taxes					12.50	
Miscellaneous overhead		4.45	2.80		11.75	
Total Cultural Costs		\$24.05	\$11.15	\$64.95	\$100.15	
Harvest:						
Lift and windrow	0.7	\$1.19	.91		\$3.57	
Combine				Contract: \$20.00/Acre + 20¢/cwt. = \$24.00		
Haul				Contract: \$5.50/Ton	5.50	
Sacks				20 @ 15¢ = 3.00	3.00	
Total Harvest Costs					\$36.07	
Total Cash and Labor Costs					\$136.22	
				Cash and Labor Cost per cwt. @ 2,000 lbs. yield	(\$6.81)	
Costs at Varying Yields						
		Investment	Per Acre	Depreciation	Interest	
Land		\$900.00			\$54.00	
Irrigation System		200.00		\$15.00	6.00	
Tractor: 6 hrs.				4.20	1.50	
Equipment		20.00		2.00	.60	
Total				\$21.20	\$62.10	
				TOTAL COST PER ACRE	\$219.52	
				TOTAL COST PER CWT. @ 2,000 LBS. YIELD	\$10.98	

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1968 peanuts

IRRIGATION:

A pre-irrigation is necessary to supply moisture for the germination of seed. If adequate moisture is available to a depth of 3 feet at seeding, then the first irrigation may be delayed until the plants start blooming. Crop irrigations should be more frequent than other crops, probably every 7 to 10 days.

Available moisture is needed during the period of blooming and nut development. Water may be withheld when 90 per cent of the nuts are mature. Maturity can be determined when the veins inside the shell begin to darken and show brown staining. At the same time, the skins are light pink and papery thin.

CULTIVATION:

Cultivation is mainly to control weeds. Weeds should be controlled when plants are small. Probably, three cultivations will be sufficient.

HARVESTING:

Lifting and windrowing can be done with a regular potato digger as soon as the ground is dry enough after the last irrigation. Threshing in the field is done when the moisture of the nuts is about 15 to 20 per cent. A regular peanut thresher usually is used.

Peanuts may be stored safely when the moisture content is about 11 per cent.