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PEANUTS

Sample Costs of Establishing Suggestions on Growing

University of California
Farm and Home Advisor's Office
2610 'M' Street
Bakersfield, California

UC Cooperative Extension

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.

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UC Cooperative Extension

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:

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 constantly being developed or added to existing bacteria, it is a good practice to inoculate the seed even though grown on land where peanuts have been grown previously.

PREPARATION OF SOIL AND PLANTING:

Land for peanuts is prepared in the same manner as for cotton or other row crops. It is important the land be completely free from vegetation at planting time. Young peanuts

Yield = 2000 lbs.

COST ANALYSIS WORK SHEET

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE PEANUTS IN KERN COUNTY - 1970

Based on man labor at \$1.90 and \$2.10 per hour, including compensation insurance and Social Security;
 Medium wheel tractor cash cost per hour \$1.40; Depreciation 70¢; Interest 30¢

Roy M. Barnes

E. A. Yeary

Operation	Hours Per Acre	Cash and Labor Cost Per Acre			Sample Costs	My Costs
		Labor	Fuel and Repairs- Equipment	Materials and Other Costs		
Cultural:						
Land Preparation	2.5	\$ 5.25	\$ 3.50		\$ 8.75	
Plant & Fertilize (2 men)	.5	2.00	.70	Seed: 65 lbs. @ 32¢ \$20.80 Nitrogen: 85 lbs. @ 10¢ 8.50 Water: 3 1/4 ft. @ \$6 19.50	32.00	
Irrigate: 1 pre, 7 crop	6.0	11.40	3.00		33.90	
Cultivate: 3 times	1.5	3.15	2.10		5.25	
Taxes				13.80	13.80	
Miscellaneous overhead		5.90	5.40	6.00	17.30	
Total Cultural Costs		\$27.70	\$14.70	\$68.60	\$111.00	
Harvest:						
Lift and windrow - 2 men	.7	\$ 2.80	\$.98		\$ 3.78	
Combine			Contract: \$20/Acre + 20¢/cwt.	\$24.00	24.00	
Haul			Contract: \$5.50/Ton	5.50	5.50	
Sacks			20 @ 15¢	3.00	3.00	
Total Harvest Costs					\$ 36.28	
Total Cash and Labor Costs					\$147.28	
		Cash and Labor Cost per cwt. @ 2,000 lbs. yield			(\$ 7.36)	
Costs at Varying Yields						
<u>Pounds Per Acre</u>	<u>Total Cost Per Cwt.</u>	<u>Investment</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Annual Cost</u> <u>Depreciation, Interest 7%</u>		
1,500	\$15.39	Land	\$800.00	\$56.00		
2,000	11.70	Irrigation System	200.00	15.00	7.00	
2,500	9.48	Tractor: 6 hrs.		4.20	1.80	
3,000	8.01	Equipment	20.00	2.00	.70	
		Total		\$21.20	\$65.50	\$ 86.70
		TOTAL COST PER ACRE			\$233.98	
		TOTAL COST PER CWT. @ 2,000 LBS. YIELD			\$11.70	

compete poorly with weeds or grass.

The planting distance between rows is usually 30 inches. A regular peanut or bean planter is used.

PLANTING RATE:

Sixty-five pounds of shelled raw nuts per acre of the Argentine variety are recommended. This will give an average of one plant every three to four inches in the row which is considered a good stand.

PLANTING TIME:

Peanuts usually are planted between April 1, and May 20, and require about 150 days from planting to maturity for maximum crop.

PLANTING DEPTH:

Shelled peanuts should be planted two to three inches deep in moist soil.

FERTILIZATION:

Tests in Kern County have shown that yields were increased when applying 85 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre. No increase in yields was obtained with the applications of phosphate.

IRRIGATION:

A pre-irrigation is necessary to supply moisture for the germination of seed. If adequate moisture is available to a depth of three 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 seven to ten days.

Available moisture is needed during the period of blooming and nut development. Water may be withheld when 90 percent 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 percent. A regular peanut thresher usually is used.

Peanuts may be stored safely when the moisture content is 10 percent.