

WHAT WILL IT COST TO GROW CASTOR BEANS IN MADERA COUNTY

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Costs of growing any crops will vary considerably on different ranches. The table below contains approximate costs of growing castor beans in Madera County. These costs are not based on conditions for any one ranch. This table is designed as a guide in helping you to determine the cost of growing castor beans on your ranch and in aiding you in appraising and planning your crop program.

These costs are based on growing castor beans on well-developed land in rotation with other field crops. It is assumed that both ditch and well water will be used, and that harvesting and hauling will be hired. Where costs and conditions vary from those given, you can make adjustments accordingly.

Castor beans have been grown only a few years in Madera County and as a result, there is only limited information or experience among growers in producing the crop. Harvesting equipment is specialized and has not been readily available. Therefore, growers should obtain reasonable assurance that harvesting equipment can be provided at the proper time before contracting to grow the crop. It should also be remembered that all parts of the plants are poisonous to livestock. Thus, the crop cannot be grazed following harvesting, nor should a forage crop be grown following castor beans where volunteer plants may be fed or be grazed by livestock.

	Sample Costs		My Costs	
	Per Acre	Per Cwt. (1)	Per Acre	Per Cwt.
LABOR COSTS: (2)				
Prepare land: 5 hours--Man & tractor	\$12.50			
Plant & fertilize: (4 row) 2 men & tractor--33 hrs.	1.16			
Irrigate: 1. pre and 5 crop--14 man hrs.	14.00			
Hoeing: 2x--8 man hrs.	8.00			
Cultivate: 4x--2 hrs. Man & tractor	5.00			
Miscellaneous other work	2.00			
Combine and Hull: Contract @ 1¢/lb.	20.00			
Hauling: Contract @ \$7.00/ton	7.00			
Total Labor and Field Power Cost	\$69.66	\$3.48		
MATERIAL COSTS:				
Irrigation water: 2½ acre feet--Tax and power	6.25			
Seed: 12 lbs. @ 25¢	3.00			
Fertilizers to provide 40 lbs. nitrogen	6.40			
Miscellaneous Material	1.00			
Total Material Cost	\$16.65	\$.83		
CASH OVERHEAD COSTS:				
General expense: Office, phone, car, etc.	4.32			
County Taxes	5.00			
Insurance, repairs, & miscellaneous overhead	3.00			
Total Cash Overhead Cost	\$12.32	\$.62		
TOTAL CASH, LABOR AND FIELD POWER COST	\$98.63	\$4.93		
DEPRECIATION:				
Irrigation facilities: \$80 cost--20 yrs. life	4.00			
Tillage, planter & other equip. except tractor-- \$20 cost--10 yrs. life	2.00			
Total Depreciation Cost	\$6.00	\$.30		
INTEREST ON INVESTMENT AT 5%:				
Irrigation facilities @ ½ cost	2.00			
Tillage & other equipment @ ½ cost	.50			
Land at \$400	20.00			
Total Interest On Investment Cost	\$22.50	\$1.13		
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION	\$127.13	\$6.36		

(1) Based on a yield of 2,000 lbs. per acre.

(2) Man labor at \$1.00 per hour and medium-wheel tractor at \$1.50 per hour.