

GROWING BLACKEYE BEANS IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY

See about 50
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Blackeyes are highly productive in the far western part of Riverside County, ie, the Riverside-Corona-Chino triangle and in the Murrieta area. They are less productive in the Hemet and Perris Valleys and rarely grown east of the San Jacinto Mountains. The blackeye bean is a soil builder because it manufactures nitrogen, much of which is left behind to fertilize a following grain crop.

SOIL AND WATER NEEDS

Blackeyes prefer a medium soil (sandy loam to loam) but can be produced on sandy soils by frequent irrigation. Beans do not tolerate alkali soils.

Before planting your crop, make sure you have enough water for three to four irrigations. (Beans need a total application of about two acre-feet of water per acre, including the pre-irrigation.)

VARIETIES

Blackeye No. 5 is recommended. It is a University of California developed nematode resistant variety of good commercial type. Certified seed is usually available if you ask your seed house for it.

LAND PREPARATION AND PLANTING

Most growers plant beans following a grain crop. This requires speedy grain harvesting followed by an irrigation of the land. The land is then disced or plowed to bury the stubble as soon as possible so that the seed can be planted to moisture.

- Plant: 15-20 pounds per acre in 30-36 inch rows to a depth of 2-3 inches into moist soil.
- When: May 1st to July 15. In general the earlier after June 1st the better.
- Be sure to: Use treated seed (Semesan, Arasan or Spergon - 3 ounces per 100 lbs of seed). If wireworms or corn seed maggot are prevalent, treat with 2-4 lbs. of 25% Lindane per 100 lbs. of seed - not over six weeks before planting.

FERTILIZER

Beans supply their own nitrogen. In some parts of the Arlington-Corona area yield increases of 300 lbs. per acre have resulted from applications of 60 lbs. per acre of actual phosphate. (150 pounds per acre Treble Super Phosphate)

DISEASES AND INSECTS

Three soil diseases - pythium, Rhizoctonia and fusarium occur in Riverside County. They are difficult to distinguish, but all act similarly - spots in the field where plants have yellowed, stunted, wilted or died from seedling to mature stage. The only control is rotation away from beans for four or five years. Insect damage is rare, but consult the farm advisor in case of a serious insect infestation.

HARVESTING

A bean cutter, windrowing equipment and often special threshing equipment are necessary. As much of this harvesting work is done custom, be sure to arrange well ahead of time for either the tools or the job.

WHAT WILL IT COST TO GROW BLACK-BEAN BEANS

Costs vary according to size of operation, available equipment, water costs and yields. The sample figures below, when adjusted to your individual costs may be used as a guide for your total per acre or per hundred weight cost. We have made the following assumptions:

Yield at 1600 pounds per acre; man labor at \$1.00 per hour; a heavy tractor at \$2.50 per hour; a light-wheel tractor at \$1.25 per hour; costs for taxes and overhead based on 60% to beans and 40% to winter crop.

Operation or item with hours or quantity, and prices per acre	Sample Per Acre	Costs Per Cwt.	My Costs Per Acre Per Cwt.
Land preparation, discing, etc. 2.5 hours for man and heavy tractor	\$8.65		
Planting - 2 men and light tractor $\frac{1}{2}$ hour plus 35¢ an hour for rent of bean planter	1.97		
Cultivation - 3 times - man and tractor $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour	3.37		
Irrigation: 1 pre-irrig. and 3 crop irrig. man labor hours--6	6.00		
Hand hoeing and weeding, 4 hours per acre	4.00		
Cutting and windrowing, contract rate at \$6.00 per hour, (2 acres per hour)-----	3.00		
Combining contract rate at 60¢ per 100 pounds	9.60		
Hauling, contract, field to warehouse	1.60		
Recleaning, fumigating and storage	4.30		
Total Labor Costs	42.99	2.64	
Irrigation water 2 acre ft. @ \$3.60 and assessment of 1.12	8.32		
Seed 20 pounds @ 20¢	4.00		
Sacks 16 @ 28¢	4.48		
Total Material Cost	16.80	1.05	
General expense, phone, car, etc., 5% of above	2.95		
County taxes \$200 valuation, \$4.12 rate; \$3.24 x 60%	4.93		
Repairs, comp. ins. and miscel. other cash costs	3.00		
Total Cash Overhead	10.38	.68	
TOTAL CASH COSTS (all above)	\$70.07	\$4.37	
Depreciation - based on about a 100 acre farm			
Irrigation system \$80 cost, 20 yr., 60% to beans	2.40		
Tillage equipment and miscel. \$12 over 10 years	1.20		
TOTAL DEPRECIATION	3.60	.22	
Interest on investment at 5%			
Irrig. system and tillage equip. and miscel. chargeable to beans at $\frac{1}{2}$ cost \$30 value	1.50		
Land \$600 value at 5%-30, 60% to beans	18.00		
Total Interest On Investment	19.50	1.22	
TOTAL ALL COSTS OF PRODUCTION	\$93.17	\$5.82	