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600 c.  
3.55

Imperial County  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of California  
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CASTOR BEANS--1956

WHAT DOES IT COST YOU TO GROW CASTOR BEANS?  
(Based on 2000 lbs. yield per acre)

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS		YOUR COSTS	
	Per Acre	Per 100#	Per Acre	Per 100#
<b>LAND PREPARATION--LABOR &amp; FIELD POWER--</b> Plow, subsoil, disc, float, etc.	15.00	.75		
<b>CULTURAL LABOR AND FIELD POWER</b>				
Planting--beds, plant & fertilize	3.50			
Cultivating - 2x	4.00			
Hoeing--Weed and thin 1x	10.00			
Irrigating - 5-9x	5.00			
Fertilizer application 1x	2.00			
Pest control--cutworm, hoppers	? ??			
Miscellaneous	2.00			
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL</b>	<b>26.50</b>	<b>1.33</b>		
<b>MATERIALS</b>				
Irrigation (2 ft. water)	4.00			
Seed (12 lbs. @ 25¢)	3.00			
Fertilizer (40# N, 50# P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> )	11.00			
Pest control	? ? ?			
Miscellaneous	1.00			
<b>TOTAL MATERIALS</b>	<b>19.00</b>	<b>.95</b>		
<b>HARVESTING</b>				
Combine & hull	15.00			
Haul--\$2.00 per ton	2.00			
<b>TOTAL HARVEST</b>	<b>17.00</b>	<b>.85</b>		
<b>CASH OVERHEAD</b>				
General Expense (5% of above)	3.88			
Taxes	2.00			
Repairs	1.00			
Insurance	.50			
<b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</b>	<b>7.38</b>	<b>.37</b>		
Depreciation	2.00	.10		
Land Rent	30.00	1.50		
<b>TOTAL ALL COSTS</b>	<b>116.88</b>	<b>5.85</b>		

The above are estimated costs of growing castor beans in Imperial County. Cost of land is listed at a full year's rental rate. With proper management the land might be double cropped hence land charges would be reduced.

Estimate your own costs by filling in the last two columns based on yields and operations and materials that might be required on your own land.

SEE REVERSE SIDE

## CASTOR BEANS

**HISTORY:** Castor beans have been grown experimentally for many years, but no appreciable acreage was grown until 1949-1950 when there were 400 acres grown.

**ACREAGE:** As reported by Imperial Irrigation District

1955	10 acres	1952	485 acres
1954	10 acres	1951	17,151 acres
1953	319 acres	1950	63 acres

**VARIETIES:** A variety suited to mechanical harvesting is essential. Growers are limited to commercially available varieties from oil processing companies.

**PLANTING DATES:** March through June 15th. The late plantings give satisfactory yields but best yields are ordinarily obtained from early plantings.

**SOILS:** In general, castor beans can be grown on any reasonably good, well-drained agricultural soil in Imperial Valley. The medium textured soils will probably produce the better crops. The very hard or soft lands will be less adapted.

**PLANTING:** Seeding rate is 12 pounds per acre planted on raised beds 38 inches apart or planted two rows on 76 inch raised beds (spaced 38 inches between rows). Cover seeds  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 inches and thin 14 to 16 inches, Ventura type bean planters have been satisfactory.

**FERTILIZERS:** Little response has been noted from phosphates. Nitrogen at rate of 40 pounds of actual nitrogen or more should give good returns.

**IRRIGATION:** The number of irrigations and amount of water used vary considerably and depend on soil conditions and weather. Five to nine irrigations have been used. A readily available supply of moisture should be maintained and the plants should not be allowed to wilt at any time. Irrigation generally should be continued till frost unless an earlier harvest is desired.

**HARVESTING:** A modified peanut harvester combine is being used successfully for harvesting. It harvests two rows 38 inches apart at one time. The castor bean seeds are still in the capsules or hulls after combining and must then go to a portable huller located in the field. The huller removes the hulls and the clean seeds then go into a truck for transporting to storage.

**PESTS & DISEASES:** Consult your local Farm Advisors.

**COSTS OF PRODUCTION:** See reverse side.