

Santa Barbara County 1965

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Extension Economist A. Doyle Reed*Lima beans*BEANS - GREEN LIMAS FOR PROCESSING

As compared to all vegetable crops grown in Santa Barbara County in 1963, lima beans for freezing were ninth in value. The acreage varies considerably, depending entirely on the amount the processors contract with the growers. This amount depends on the holdover stocks and the anticipated demand. The following table gives the variations of the last few years.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Harvested Acreage</u>	<u>Average Yield (Tons/Ac.)</u>	<u>Total Production (Tons)</u>	<u>Farm Price (per Ton)</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
1959	2,200	1.5	3,208	\$ 150	\$ 481,230
1960	2,310	1.57	3,630	142	515,000
1961	2,680	1.62	4,342	155	673,000
1962	2,750	1.5	4,126	160	660,000
1963	1,760	1.8	3,170	161	510,000

Total California production amounted to just over \$6 million from 2200 acres. Santa Barbara County's share of the acreage and value was 8%.

CHARACTERISTICS OF LIMA BEAN FARMS

The majority of the green lima bean acreage is located in the eastern half of the Santa Maria Valley. Lima beans prefer a relatively cool summer, the limit for sufficient warmth being within a short distance west of Santa Maria.

MANAGEMENT FACTORS

Soil Preparation. Irrigating a month or two before planting is common. Soil at planting time needs to be loose, well pulverized, and dry on the surface, underlain by a moist, warm soil at the depth the seed is to be dropped.

Plantings. Plantings for any one processor must be extended over several weeks time to lengthen his operating period. The planting period is usually from mid-April to mid-June or early July. Soil temperatures for germination should be above 65°. Row spacing varies from about 36 inches to closer than 24. Close spacing of plants is desirable and planting 140 lbs./ac. or more seed is advised.

Fertilizer. Usually little fertilizer is used - depending mainly on carryover from previous crop. Light application of nitrogen may be made during growing season.

Cultivation and Irrigation. Tillage after planting is primarily for weed control and to provide irrigation furrows. Two to three operations are usual. After planting, no irrigation is made to 40 to 60 days. Light irrigations are then applied.

Diseases and Pests. Seed and seedlings are frequently attacked by decay organisms and insects. These can usually be successfully controlled by treating the seed with a coating of a combination of fungicide and insecticide. Several combinations are satisfactory, and are usually applied commercially at warehouses. Lygus bugs are common and control practices are almost always made.

VEGETABLES - Green Limas for Processing

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Harvesting. In general labor is at a minimum except at harvest, and it does not appear this can be reduced substantially because harvest is already greatly mechanized.

OUTLOOK

Green lima beans are considered a stable and reliable crop as long as quantity and quality are good. These should be obtained by the farming techniques listed previously. It appears that as long as the freezers remain in this area, there will be a demand for green limas to meet their needs.

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE GREEN LIMA BEANS

Based on 1,000 acre farm. Yield 1.5 ton.

Tractor driver @ \$1.65. Irrigator @ \$1.40. Other labor @ \$1.25

Operation	Hours Per Acre	Labor	Fuel and Repairs	Materials & Other Cash	Total
Cultural					
Land preparation	3.0	\$ 5.00	\$ 8.00		\$ 13.00
Plant	1.0	1.65	1.20	Seed 125 lb @ .17	\$21.25 24.10
Irrigate 4 times	8.0	11.20	1.80	Water 1.4' @ 5.00	7.00 20.00
Cultivate 5 times	5.0	8.25	6.25		14.50
Hoe	4.8	6.00			6.00
Pest Control				Spray \$5.00 Applic. \$4.00	9.00 9.00
Fertilize	1.0	1.65	1.35	Material	5.00 8.00
Miscellaneous	3.0	4.00	3.65		7.65
Total Cultural	25.8	37.75	22.25		42.25 102.25
Harvest					
Cut & windrow	2.0	3.30	2.70		6.00
Vine & haul by processor					4.50
Misc. overhead					42.50
Rent 1/2 year					155.25
Total Cash Cost					11.60
Management 5% of 1.5 ton @ \$155 (\$232.50)					
			<u>Annual Cost</u>		
	<u>Investment</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Interest</u>	
	Equipment	180.00	18.00	5.40	23.40
Total Cost Per Acre					190.25
Cost per ton @ 1.5 ton yield					126.83

GREEN-LIMA BEANS - CASH FLOW

	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Land Preparation	13.00									13.00
Irrigate 4 x	5.00		5.00	5.00	5.00					20.00
Plant		24.10								24.10
Cultivate 5 x		2.80	8.90	2.80						14.50
Fertilize			8.00							8.00
Hoe				6.00						6.00
Spray					9.00					9.00
Miscellaneous				2.60	2.55	2.50				7.65
Cuts and Windrow						6.00				6.00
Misc. Overhead	.85	1.00	1.00	1.00	.65					4.50
Rent 1/2 year		42.50								42.50
Total Cash Cost	18.85	70.40	22.90	17.40	17.20	8.50				155.25
Income							116.25		116.25	232.50
Accumulated Cash Costs	18.75	89.25	112.15	129.55	146.75	155.25	39.00	39.00	-77.25	-77.25