

Rec ap 56

YIELDS:

Kentucky Wonder Beans yield from 5,000 to 8,000 lbs. of beans per acre, 7,000 lbs. is a good average. Blue Lake Beans generally yield somewhat higher, from 7,000 lbs. to 10,000 lbs., but bring lower market prices per pound. Yields are primarily influenced by time of planting, irrigation and fertilizing practices, and disease and insect pests.

SOILS:

Soft, well drained soils that warm up early in the spring are best for bean production. Do not plant on salty ground, as beans are very sensitive to salt damage.

CROP ROTATION:

Successive bean crops should not be grown on the same ground. Beans are susceptible to many soil borne disease organisms and support populations of these pests.

VARETIES:

White Seeded Kentucky Wonder (most popular) and Blue Lake are the most commonly grown varieties.

PLANTING:

The spring crop is planted from about January 25 - March 1 and the fall crop from August 5 - September 15. Late spring frosts often damage early planted spring crops. Early planting produces greater yields in the fall.

From 80-100 lbs. seed is planted 1"-2" deep in rows (on beds) spaced 36" apart. Only treated seed (fungicide and insecticide) should be planted. Seed from most commercial seed companies is already treated.

FERTILIZER PRACTICES: (GENERALLY USED BY SUCCESSFUL BEAN GROWERS)

One hundred lbs. of N. plus 100 lbs. P2O5 are generally needed. Apply 3-5 tons manure broadcast pre-planting, plus 40-60 lbs. N. plus 60 lbs. P2O5 side dressed at planting. On lighter soils (sands) applications of 20-30 lbs. N. in the water or in the side of the furrow after 2nd. picking are often helpful.

IRRIGATION:

Soil should be pre-irrigated and seed planted in moist soil. The crop should never suffer from lack of sufficient moisture, but keeping the soil too wet will retard growth and reduce yields.

WEED CONTROL:

Weeds must be controlled as much as possible before staking. Heavy weed populations reduce yields and increase costs. Weeds also are hosts of several virus diseases and many insect pests of beans.

DISEASE AND PEST CONTROL:

Root rot diseases are always a problem; treated seed and crop rotation offer some control.

Root knot nematodes can cause severe crop losses. If soil is suspected of being infested, it should be fumigated.

Insect pests are: Woolly Bear Caterpillars (Salt Marsh Caterpillars), Spider Mites, Seed Corn Maggot, Wireworms, Thrips, Lygus bugs, Corn Earworms, Diabrotica Beetles, Leafhoppers, Loopers, Pod Borers, White Fly, Aphids, and Stink Bugs. See your Farm Advisor for control practices.

HARVESTING, PACKING, MARKETING:

Swap beans for market are hand picked, the number of pickings depends upon crop vigor and market prices. Beans are hauled to farm sheds where they are graded, sorted, and packed in wirebound crates. Most of the crop is sold at large west coast terminal markets (Los Angeles, Oakland, San Francisco) but several large packing houses located in the Coachella Valley also market much of the crop.

WHAT DOES IT COST TO GROW GREEN POLE BEANS

IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY

Based on 7,000 lbs. yield 1/2 yr. land utilization

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS		YOUR COSTS	
	Per Acre	Per Lb.	Per Acre	Per Lb.
Land Preparation and Planting				
Plow 1x	\$ 3.00			
Disc 2x	4.00			
Furrow out	1.00			
Pre-irrigate	3.00			
Plant	5.00			
LAND PREPARATION AND PLANTING TOTAL	\$ 16.00	.2¢		
Cultural Labor and Field Power				
Fertilizer application-organic	12.50			
Re-furrow, apply commercial fertilizer, cultivate - 1 operation	2.50			
Stake and string	60.00			
Train vines: 6-7x, if done	45.00			
Pest control	5.00			
Weed control: cultivate 1x	2.00			
hand hoe 1x	5.00			
Irrigate: 17-20x	20.00			
Cut down vines, wind wire, pull stakes, disc	25.00			
CULTURAL LABOR AND FIELD POWER TOTAL	\$ 177.00	2.5¢		
Materials:				
Seed; 100 lbs. @ 33¢/lb.	33.00			
Fertilizer: Organic manure	40.00			
200 lb. 16-20	9.40			
Insecticides:	6.00			
Irrigation water: 4 acre ft.	9.00			
Stakes and end posts: depreciate over 7 yrs.	20.00			
Wire: 14 guage, 44 lbs. per acre @ 12¢/lb. depreciate over 5 yrs.	1.06			
String: 40 lbs. (3 ply) @ 68¢/lb.	27.20			
Twine: 5 lbs. (6 ply) @ 68¢/lb.	3.40			
Miscellaneous:	2.00			
MATERIALS TOTAL	\$ 151.06	2.2¢		
Cash Overhead				
General Expenses @ 5% of above	17.20			
Taxes: 50% to bean crop	10.00			
Insurance	1.50			
Miscellaneous	2.00			
CASH OVERHEAD TOTAL	30.70	.4¢		
Total cash cost prior to Harvest	374.76	5.3¢		
Land Rent: 50% to beans	40.00	.6¢		
Total Cost Prior to Harvest	\$414.76	5.9¢		

7,000 lbs. yield

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS		YOUR COSTS	
	Per Acre	Per lb.	Per acre	Per lb.
<u>Harvest</u>				
Pick and haul to shed	\$ 280.00	.4¢		
Grade, sort, pack	70.00	.1¢		
Grates: 140 @ 49¢ ea.	68.60	.1¢		
HARVEST TOTAL	418.60	.6¢		
TOTAL COST AT RANCH	833.30	1.1¢		
Freight to Los Angeles @ 39¢/crate	54.00	.8¢		
Brokerage Fee: 15%	156.70	.2¢		
TOTAL ALL COSTS	\$1044.00	1.4¢		

Average Los Angeles Market Prices: per lb.

1950	1951	1952	1953
\$.14	\$.19	\$.18	\$.19

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