

SNAP BEANS - 1953
(Blue Lake for Processing)

Orange County
Agricultural Extension Service
University of California

WHAT DOES IT COST YOU TO GROW SNAP BEANS
(Based on 7-Ton Yield)

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Items	Sample Costs		Your Costs	
	Per Acre	Per Cwt	Per Acre	Per Cwt
<u>Land Preparation</u>				
Plow (1 time)	4.50			
Disc (3 times)	4.50			
Harrow (1 time)	1.00			
Float and Level	4.00			
Planting	2.00			
Total	16.00	.11		
<u>Cultural Labor and Field Power</u>				
Cultivation Tractors (3 times)	4.50			
Cultivation Horse (2 times)	3.00			
Irrigations (6 times)	9.00			
Staking (620)	21.50			
Wire and Stringing (1 wire)	17.00			
Pest Control (2 times) -Aeroplane	4.00			
Hoeing (1 time)	10.50			
** Apply Fertilizer	- -			
Removing Stakes	15.00			
Total	84.50	.60		
<u>Materials</u>				
Water 24 inches	21.60			
Seed - 40# at 30¢	12.00			
Fertilizer - Chicken (500 cu.ft)	45.00			
Fertilizer - Commercial Mix 1500#	45.00			
Pest Control - 80# at 8¢	6.40			
Stakes - 2"X2"X8' - at 4¢, 3 yrs.	25.00			
Wire - 12000 ft. 14 gauge - 5 yrs.	6.00			
String - 15#, Staples 1½#	15.40			
Total	176.40	1.26		
<u>Cash Over Head</u>				
General Expense 5%	12.20			
** Taxes	- -			
Insurance	1.00			
Repairs	1.00			
Total	14.20	.10		
<u>Harvesting</u>				
Picking - 14000# at 3¢ per lb.	420.00	3.00		
** Depreciation	- -			
TOTAL CASH COSTS	711.10	5.07		
Land Rent	60.00	.42		
Management - Estimate Your Own	- -	- -		

** Included in Other Costs

POLE SNAP BEANS FOR PROCESSING IN ORANGE COUNTY

Introduction: Pole snap beans for process freezing or canning do well in Orange County. However, high cost of production per acre and heavy short season harvest labor requirements, have limited this crop to less than 150 acres during the past few years. With good yields cost of production per pound is reasonable. This is seen in the cost data as shown on the reverse of this sheet. Growers should have definite contracts with processors before planting.

Varieties and Yields: Processors prefer Blue Lake strains, which are round, stringless, and small seeded. Occasionally other varieties are acceptable. Yields will range from 3 to 8 tons per acre.

Climatic and Soil Requirements: Snap beans germinate and grow best when soil and air temperatures are between 65°F to 85°F. Hot weather causes poor blossom set. Most fertile soil will produce a good crop, but well drained sandy loams are generally preferred. Best temperatures for planting and growth are generally after March and before November.

Planting: Since the crop life is about 110 to 130 days, planting should generally not be much before April or after mid-July. The time of planting for any grower must meet the processors requirements. Row spacings of 40 inches are satisfactory. Seed treated with a combination insecticide and fungicide and planted at 40 pounds per acre is recommended.

Fertilization: Fertile soils are necessary for good production. Manures broadcast before planting are generally recommended. Commercial fertilizers containing nitrogen and phosphorous and applied as a side dressing during early growth is often good practice. Soils not highly fertile should probably receive up to 200 pounds per acre each of available nitrogen and phosphorous.

Irrigation: Snap beans root to a depth of about 3 feet. Early irrigation is not necessary unless the plants begin to darken and show signs of stress. Later weekly light irrigations of 2 to 3 inches may be necessary. Remember, however, that no more than about one inch of moisture can be lost each week by evaporation and plant transpiration.

Cultivation: After planting cultivation is primarily for weed control. Shallow working is recommended.

Supports: An initial investment for stakes and wire will amount to more than \$100 per acre. Therefore using them only one year will usually make production costs high. Stakes 2" x 2" x 8 ft., are spaced 20 feet apart in the rows. One 14 gauge wire is strung at the top of the stakes when the plants start runners. String is looped around a plant, up and over the wire and down to another plant about a foot distance, and so on.

Pest Control: Two spotted mites, white flies, thrips, Diabrotica beetles, and other pests will attack snap beans. Rust and mildew will sometimes become serious. Control of most of the pests can be accomplished by applying at 40 pounds per acre a dust containing 5% DDT and 50% sulphur, before the beans attain appreciable size.

Harvesting: Snap beans should be picked when they have reached nearly maximum length, but are still tender, free from strings, and before the seeds have started to enlarge. Processors grade them by diameter size. If too large they will be down-graded and the price will be reduced. Picking every 3 to 4 days is essential to get top quality. Five to 8 pickings may be required.