

GREEN LIMA BEAN GROWING IN MONTEREY COUNTY

by
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Green lima beans grown for freezing are one of several important processing crops grown in Monterey County. According to the latest report issued by the Agricultural Commissioner, acreage increased markedly during 1960. Acreage, yield, and value for the crop are shown below.

	Acreage	Production	Value	Total Value
1958	1600	3360	150.00	504,000
1959	1536	3081	144.00	443,664
1960	2370	3697	150.00	554,550

The sizable increase in 1960 acreage was due to a new processor contracting for lima beans in this county.

CULTURAL

The crop is generally planted sometime in May or June in anticipation of an August or September harvest. The pest and disease problems connected with the crop are rarely serious enough to greatly impair yield. A wrinkling of the seed coat known as "alligator hide" has been a problem in some instances. Growers are aware of this problem and are able to minimize its effect.

SUMMARY OF COST OF GREEN LIMAS AT DIFFERENT YIELDS
With Growing Costs Per Acre As On the Other Side of Sheet

	2500	3000	3500	4000	4500
Yield per acre	2500	3000	3500	4000	4500
Total production cost per acre	\$230	\$230	\$230	\$230	\$230
Cost per hundred weight	9.20	7.67	6.57	5.73	5.11
Net income of profit per acre at \$7.00 cwt	\$-55	\$-20	\$ 15	\$ 50	\$ 85
8.00 cwt	- 30	10	50	90	130
9.00 cwt	- 5	40	85	130	175

Inputs and costs on the other side of this sheet are based on interviews with typical commercial growers. They apply to green lima beans grown primarily for processing. Costs of growing lima beans for fresh market would necessarily be different from those presented here.

SAMPLE INPUTS AND COSTS FOR GREEN LIMAS FOR FREEZING
For Salinas Valley, 1961, With a Yield of 4000 lbs. per Acre
Monterey County, 1961

	Man	60 h.p.	30 h.p.	Truck or	Cost	Cos
	Labor	Tractor	Tractor	Pickup		
	Hours per Acre				Acres	cwt
Land preparation, 8 oper.	2.4	2.0	0.3	.1	9.28	
Pre plant irrigation	3.0				3.75	
Pre plant fertilization	.4		0.3	.1	1.13	
Planting, 2 men & planter	1.0		0.4	.1	2.02	
Cultivate 4 times	2.0		2.0		5.20	
Irrigate 6 times	12.0			.2	15.30	
Hoe & weed 2 times	15.0			.1	15.15	
Misc. other cultural work	2.0		.5	1.0	5.30	
Cut vines for harvest	1.5		1.5		4.40	
Haul straw from viner and spread		contract			8.00	
Post harvest weed spray	0.2		0.2		.52	
Total labor and field power	39.5	2.0	5.2	1.6	70.05	1.75
Seed, 150 lbs. @ 22¢					33.00	
Irrigation water, power to pump 3.5 acre feet at \$4.00					14.00	
Fertilizer - 400 lb. Am. Sulf. or equiv.					12.00	
Insecticide applied					5.00	
Weed spray material					2.00	
Total material cost				Tenant	66.00	1.65
Total labor and material cost				136.05	136.05	3.40
General expense, office, etc. est. at 5% of above				6.80	6.80	
County taxes, eqt. 1.50 land 10.00				1.50	11.50	
Repairs, not included in above tractor and truck costs				2.50	2.50	
Insurance, compensation, social security, fire, etc.				2.35	2.40	
Rent for year - reduce if shared with another crop				60.00	-	
Total cash overhead				73.15	23.20	.58
Total cash costs				209.20	159.25	3.98
Investment overhead based on 400 crop acres and 200 acres of beans	Values*	6% Int.	Depreciation			
	Dollars per acre					
Building for equipment	5.25	.32	.35			
Irrigation system	67.50	4.05	5.75			
Land	700.00	42.00	-			
Subtotal, real estate	772.75	46.37	6.10			
Tillage equipment	11.25	.68	2.25			
Bean planter and cutter	3.75	.23	.45			
Portable irrigation pipe & hydrants	9.40	.56	1.88			
Tractors, truck & pickup	43.50	2.61	8.70			
Misc. shop eqt.	1.50	.09	.30			
Subtotal operating eqt.	69.40	4.17	13.58			
Total investment and deprec.	842.15	50.54	19.68	13.58	19.68	.49
Total cash and depreciation costs				222.78	178.93	4.47
Interest on investment				4.17	50.54	1.26
Total all costs				226.95	229.47	5.73

Labor costs above are figured at the following rates per hour: tractor driver \$1.50, Irrigator \$1.25, hand labor \$1.00, 60 h.p. crawler tractor \$2.60, 30 h.p. wheel tractor \$1.10, 2 ton truck \$2.00, pickup \$1.50. Tractor and truck rates are cash costs only for fuel and repairs.

*Average value shown for depreciable items is half the original current cost. This is used to figure interest as a life average. Depreciation is based on original cost. Notice that the 3rd from the last column is shown for a cash renter. The last two columns are for an owner-operator.