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BLACK EYES

COSTS & GENERAL HINTS ON PRODUCTION

University of California
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BRIEFS ON GROWING BLACKEYES
Roy M. Barnes - Farm Advisor

SOIL REQUIREMENTS:

Blackeye beans prefer sandy soils. The heavy soils of the west side have not been found satisfactory for profitable production. Blackeyes produce an abundant growth of vines on heavy soils, but the setting of fruit and the quality of seed are usually inferior.

VARIETY:

Blackeye No.5 is the most popular variety and can be recommended for Kern County. Always Plant Certified Seed.

SEED TREATMENT:

For seed decay, treat seed with Arasan SFX 1-1/3 oz. (slurry) per 100 lbs. of seed or Spergon 3 oz. (dust) or Spergon SL 2 oz. (slurry). For wireworm and seed corn maggot, treat seed with lindane 0.66 ozs. of the 75% spray or dust per 100 lbs. of seed. Both fungicide and insecticide should be applied together.

In well established areas where Blackeyes have been grown, nodule culture need not be applied. But in new areas where the beans have not been previously grown, nodule bacteria must be applied to the seed immediately before planting.

PREPARATION OF SOIL & PLANTING:

A well prepared seed bed, of course, is essential for a good stand. Pre-irrigation is essential to provide sufficient moisture to germinate the seed and to promote normal growth until the plant reaches the third or fourth leaf.

1954

WHAT WILL IT COST TO GROW BLACK EYE BEANS IN KERN COUNTY
 BASED ON A YIELD OF 2,000 LBS. PER ACRE
 Man Labor at \$.95 per hr.; medium wheel tractor @ \$1.60

Roy M. Barnes *

Burt B. Burlingame **

	Sample Costs		My Costs	
	Per Acre	Per Cwt.	Per Acre	Per Cwt.
PRE-HARVEST LABOR AND MATERIAL COSTS:				
Land preparation: man & tractor 2½ hrs.	\$ 6.35			
Planting: man & tractor .33 hr. (4 rows)	.74			
Seed: 20 lbs. @ 18¢	3.60			
Irrigate: 1 pre & 3 crop - 6 man hrs.	5.70			
Water: power for 2½ ac. ft. @ \$4.50	11.25			
Cultivation: 3X - man & tractor 1½ hrs.	3.80			
Hoe & weed: 4 man hrs.	3.80			
Miscellaneous labor & materials	2.00			
Total pre-harvest labor & material cost	\$ 37.24	\$1.86		
HARVESTING COSTS:				
Cut & windrow: man & tractor 1 hr.	2.55			
Combine - contract @ \$.80/sack	16.00			
Hauling: roadsiding & to warehouse @ \$5.50/ton	5.50			
Reclean, fumigation & storage @ \$9.50/ton	9.50			
Sacks: 20 @ 25¢	5.00			
Total harvesting cost	\$ 38.55	\$1.93		
CASH OVERHEAD COSTS:				
General expense - (5% of above)	3.78			
County taxes	6.25			
Misc., repairs, insurance, etc.	4.00			
Total cash overhead cost	\$ 14.03	\$.70		
TOTAL CASH LABOR AND FIELD POWER COST	\$ 89.82	\$4.49		
DEPRECIATION				
Irrigation facilities (original cost \$200)	15.00			
Equipment (except tractor & combine) 10 yr. life	1.50			
Total depreciation	\$ 16.50	\$.82		
INTEREST ON INVESTMENT @ 5%				
Irrigation facilities, tillage & other equipment @ ½ original cost	5.38			
Land @ \$500	25.00			
Total interest on investment	\$ 30.38	\$1.51		
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION	\$136.70	\$6.83		

* Farm Advisor

** Extension Economist
in Farm Management

Rows are usually spaced 30 inches apart. In-the-row spacing should be about 4 inches. A two or four rowed plate type planter is commonly used for planting. In the southern and coastal areas the Ventura type planter is used. No seed injury occurs with use of the Ventura planter.

PLANTING RATE:

Eighteen to twenty lbs. per acre are sufficient when planted in 30 inch rows.

PLANTING TIME:

In Kern County, April 15 to May 20 is a good time to plant Blackeyes.

PLANTING DEPTH:

The depth of planting averages $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches but can be deeper if moisture conditions demand.

FERTILIZATION:

Blackeyes are a legume and normally the application of nitrogen is not necessary. If phosphate is now being used on cotton or other crops in your area, the application of from 80 to 100 lbs. of P_2O_5 may be profitable. Phosphate should be applied only if it has proven deficient by actual tests.

IRRIGATION:

From the beginning of blooming until the first crop of pods are well set, the plant should be fully supplied with water. Irrigation should not be postponed until the plants suffer. This point is indicated when the leaves become dark green.

CULTIVATION:

Cultivation is to destroy weeds only, but if no weeds grow, cultivation is of no measurable benefit. Unnecessary cultivation may destroy feeder roots growing close to the surface, thus reducing your crop.

HARVESTING:

Harvesting begins as soon as the major part of the pods have turned straw color. Windrowing 6 to 8 rows together to dry for the pickup combine is the usual practice.

YIELDS:

On good soil and with proper management, yields from 2,000 to 3,000 pounds per acre in a normal season may be expected.

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