

Rec. April 56

SOYBEAN PRODUCTION
DESERT VALLEYS, RIVERSIDE COUNTY

GENERAL: Soybeans have not been grown in the desert areas of Riverside County except for experimental test plots and one field planting in the Palo Verde Valley. With the recent development of a relatively shatter proof variety, yields of 2000 to 2400 pounds have been obtained at the USDA Field Station at Brawley. Soybeans will produce under good growing conditions up to 3 tons of hay or 12 tons of green manure. The soybean is a legume and as such could have a place in the crop rotation as a soil builder or a high protein forage.

VARIETIES: At present the shatter resistant variety, Lee, is being increased in Imperial Valley. If reasonable yields of beans are to be expected this selection should be planted.

SOILS: Sandy or clay loams are best. Soybeans will not do well on salty or alkali ground.

LAND PREPARATION AND PLANTING: A well prepared seed bed is important. Usually discing two ways, listing and harrowing down ridges following a pre-irrigation will be sufficient.

Plant: Thirty pounds of seed per acre in 24" to 40" rows to a depth of 2 to 3 inches into moist soil.

When: Soybeans should be planted around June 1.

Be Sure To: Inoculate with a soybean inoculant at planting time.

FERTILIZER: ~~Even though soybeans are legumes; preliminary tests show that up to 40~~ pounds of actual nitrogen increases yield under most conditions. Phosphate will be needed on soils where deficiencies are known to exist. 60-80 pounds of actual phosphate should be applied.

INSECTS AND PESTS: The worst insect pest is expected to be red spider. Other insects may give trouble. Rabbits have been troublesome in other areas and may become a serious problem here. Avoid planting soybeans on ground where nematode is known to exist.

IRRIGATION: Plant into moisture. Do not allow plants to wilt at any time.

HARVESTING: Soybeans may be harvested by direct combining. Do not delay harvest as the period of resistance to shatter is relatively short -- check for proper adjustment on combine to prevent cracking.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY PRODUCERS IN U.S. PER CWT:

1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
3.60	4.11	4.55	4.55	4.46	(July) 5.78	(July) 3.71

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WHAT DOES IT COST TO GROW SOYBEANS
DESERT VALLEYS, RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Based on 1800 lb. Yield

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS		YOUR COSTS	
	Per Acre	Per Cwt.	Per Acre	Per Cwt.
<u>Preparation and planting</u>				
Disc 2x	\$ 4.00		.....	.....
List	1.50		.....	.....
Pre-irrigate . . . . .	.40		.....	.....
Harrow ridge.	1.50		.....	.....
Plant	2.00		.....	.....
PREPARATION AND PLANT TOTAL	\$ 9.40	\$.52	.....	.....
<u>Cultural Labor and Field Power</u>				
Cultivate 2x	\$ 3.00		.....	.....
Irrigate 9x	3.60		.....	.....
Fertilize 1x.	1.00		.....	.....
Insecticide application (where needed).	2.00		.....	.....
CULTURAL LABOR AND FIELD POWER TOTAL.	\$ 9.60	\$.54	.....	.....
<u>Materials</u>				
Seed 30lbs. @ 6¢	\$ 1.80		.....	.....
Nitrogen 40 N	6.00		.....	.....
Water ($\frac{1}{2}$ year basis).	6.00		.....	.....
Insecticide	3.00		.....	.....
Inoculant . . . . .	.60		.....	.....
Misc.	1.00		.....	.....
MATERIALS TOTAL	\$18.40	\$1.02	.....	.....
<u>Harvesting</u>				
Combine	\$ 7.50		.....	.....
Haul (bulk)	2.25		.....	.....
HARVEST TOTAL	\$ 9.75	\$.55	.....	.....
<u>Cash Overhead</u>				
General expense 5%.	\$ 2.38		.....	.....
Insurance	1.25		.....	.....
Misc.	1.00		.....	.....
CASH OVERHEAD TOTAL	\$ 4.63	\$.24	.....	.....
TOTAL CASH COST	\$52.38	\$2.90	.....	.....
Rent @ $\frac{1}{2}$ annual cost.	\$20.00		.....	.....
TOTAL ALL COSTS	\$72.38	\$4.02	.....	.....

The above sample costs are based on commercial or contract rates and average yields. Costs will vary widely--compute your own costs by filling in the last two columns.