

Rec 2/6/56

GROWING BUSH BEANS IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY

YIELDS:

Wades and Black Valentines will yield from 3500-4000 lbs. per acre under good conditions. Time of planting, crop vigor, and market prices influence yields.

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.

VARIETIES:

Wade, Black Valentine, and Yellow Wax are the principal varieties grown. Wades sell for 2-5¢ per pound less than Kentucky Wonders, and Black Valentines for 1-3¢ per pound less than Wades.

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:

Snap 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.

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WHAT DOES IT COST TO GROW BUSH BEANS IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY

(Based on a 4,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ yield 1/2 year land utilization)

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS		YOUR COSTS	
	Per Acre	Per Lb.	Per Acre	Per Lb.
Land Preparation:				
Plow 2x	\$ 3.00			
Float	2.00			
Pre-Irrigate	1.50			
Disc 2x	4.00			
Fumigate - if necessary	3.50			
Furrow-out	2.00			
Plant	3.00			
LAND PREPARATION TOTAL	\$ 19.00	.5¢		
Cultural Labor and Field Power:				
Cultivate 2x	4.00			
Hoe 1x	10.00			
Irrigate 15x	15.00			
Fertilizer application: organic and commercial	12.50			
Pest Control	7.50			
Disc under vines \$4.00/acre	4.00			
CULTURAL LABOR & FIELD POWER TOTAL	\$ 53.00	1.3¢		
Materials:				
Irrigation water 4 Ac. ft. @ \$2.25	9.00			
Fertilizer: 3 tons chicken - 200 $\frac{1}{2}$ 16-20	39.40			
Seed: 100 $\frac{1}{2}$ @ 35¢/lb.	35.00			
Pest control	5.00			
Fumigate: 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ gals. E.D.B. @ \$5.90/gal.	32.50			
MATERIALS TOTAL	\$ 120.90	3.2¢		
Cash Overhead:				
General expense @ 5% of above	9.65			
Taxes: 50% to beans	10.00			
Insurance	1.58			
Repairs and Miscellaneous	2.00			
CASH OVERHEAD TOTAL	\$ 23.23	.6¢		
Land Rent or Interest on Investment				
1/2 to bean crop	40.00	1.0¢		
Total Cost Prior to Harvest	256.13	6.4¢		
Harvest @ 5¢/lb.	200.00	5.0¢		
Haul to shed, wash, and pack @ 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢/lb	100.00	2.5¢		
Crate: @ 49¢ each: @ 1¢/lb.	39.20	1.0¢		
HARVEST AND PACKING TOTAL	\$ 339.20	8.5¢		
Total Cost at Ranch	595.33	14.9¢		
Freight to Los Angeles @ 39¢/crate	31.20	.8¢		
Brokerage Commission: 15%	110.56	2.8¢		
TOTAL AT LOS ANGELES	\$ 737.09	18.4¢		