

# PEANUTS

costs of production

suggestions on growing

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
FARM AND HOME ADVISORS' OFFICE

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*ag. Ext. Ser.*

# SUGGESTIONS ON GROWING PEANUTS

By

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## SOIL REQUIREMENTS:

PEANUTS ARE ADAPTED TO WELL DRAINED SANDY AND SANDY LOAM SOILS. THE PEGS CAN PENETRATE THESE SOILS READILY. LIFTING OUT AT MATURITY IS EASIER, TOO, WITHOUT SOIL CLINGING TO THE NUTS AND FEWER NUTS ARE PULLED LOOSE AND LEFT IN THE GROUND.

## VARIETY:

IN KERN COUNTY THE SPANISH STRAINS OF PEANUTS ARE PRODUCED COMMERCIALY. ARGENTINE VARIETY IS GROWN PREDOMINANTLY. IT YIELDS WELL AND IS ADAPTED TO IRRIGATED CONDITIONS. OTHER VARIETIES WHICH HAVE BEEN GROWN SUCCESSFULLY ARE DIXIE SPANISH AND SPANTEX.

## SEED TREATMENT:

SEED DECAY AND SEEDLING INJURY CAN BE PREVENTED BY CHEMICALLY TREATING THE SEED. THIS IS ONE OF THE SUREST WAYS TO OBTAIN BETTER STANDS. THE CHEMICALS USED FOR TREATING PEANUT SEEDS ARE: ARASAN, THIRAM 50, SPERGON OR PHYGON.

ARASAN AND THIRAM 50 ARE USED AT THE RATE OF TWO OUNCES PER 100 POUNDS OF SEED; SPERGON AND PHYGON AT THE RATE OF THREE OUNCES PER 100 POUNDS OF SEED.

INNOCULATING THE SEED WITH THE PROPER STRAIN OF BACTERIA IS NECESSARY PARTICULARLY WHEN PLANTED ON GROUND WHICH HAS NOT GROWN PEANUTS PREVIOUSLY. SINCE NEW STRAINS OF BACTERIA ARE CONSTANTLY BEING DEVELOPED OR ADDED TO EXISTING ONES, IT IS A GOOD PRACTICE TO INNOCULATE

COSTS TO PRODUCE PEANUTS IN KERN COUNTY  
 BASED ON MAN LABOR AT \$1.00 AND \$1.30 PER HOUR; 30 H.P. WHEEL TRACTOR CASH COST PER HOUR \$1.00;  
 DEPRECIATION \$.41; INTEREST \$.19

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OPERATION	HOURS PER ACRE	CASH AND LABOR COST PER ACRE			SAMPLE COSTS	MY COSTS
		LABOR	FUEL AND REPAIRS-EQUIPMENT	MATERIAL AND OTHER COSTS		
<b>CULTURAL:</b>						
LAND PREPARATION	2.5	\$ 3.25	\$ 2.50		\$ 5.75	
PLANT	.5	.65	.50	SEED: 65 LBS. @ .27¢ \$17.55	18.70	
IRRIGATE: 1 PRE, 7 CROP	6.0	6.00	2.50	WATER: 3-1/4 FT. @ \$6 19.50	28.00	
CULTIVATE: 3 TIMES	1.5	1.95	1.50		3.45	
TAXES					12.50	
MISCELLANEOUS OVERHEAD		2.80	2.50		3.50	8.80
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS</b>		<b>\$14.65</b>	<b>\$ 9.50</b>		<b>\$ 77.20</b>	
<b>HARVEST:</b>						
LIFT AND WINDROW - 2 MEN	.7	\$ 1.82	\$ .70		\$ 2.52	
COMBINE				CONTRACT: 20 /A @ 20¢/cwt. \$24.00	24.00	
HAUL				CONTRACT: \$5.50/TON 5.50	5.50	
SACKS				20 @ 15¢ 3.00	3.00	
<b>TOTAL HARVEST COSTS</b>					<b>\$ 35.02</b>	
<b>TOTAL CASH AND LABOR COSTS</b>					<b>\$112.22</b>	
<b>COSTS AT VARYING YIELDS</b>						
<u>POUNDS PER ACRE</u>	<u>COST PER CWT</u>	<u>INVESTMENT</u>	<u>PER ACRE</u>	<u>ANNUAL COST</u>		
		LAND	\$800.00	DEPRECIATION	INTEREST	
		IRRIGATION FACILITIES	200.00	\$15.00	6.00	
		TRACTOR: 6 HRS.		2.46	1.14	
		EQUIPMENT	20.00	2.00	.60	
		<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$19.46</b>	<b>\$55.74</b>	<b>\$ 75.20</b>
1,500	\$12.29					
2,000	9.37					
2,500	7.62					
				<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</b>		<b>\$187.42</b>
				<b>COST PER CWT @ 2,000 LB. YIELD</b>		<b>\$ 9.37</b>

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THE SEED EVEN THOUGH GROWN ON LAND WHERE PEANUTS HAVE BEEN GROWN PREVIOUSLY.

### PREPARATION OF SOIL AND PLANTING:

LAND FOR PEANUTS IS PREPARED IN THE SAME MANNER AS FOR COTTON OR OTHER ROW CROPS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE LAND BE COMPLETELY FREE FROM VEGETATION AT PLANTING TIME. YOUNG PEANUTS COMPETE POORLY WITH WEEDS OR GRASS.

THE PLANTING DISTANCE BETWEEN ROWS IS USUALLY 32 INCHES. A REGULAR PEANUT OR BEAN PLANTER IS USED.

### PLANTING RATE:

SIXTY-FIVE POUNDS PER ACRE OF THE ARGENTINE VARIETY IS RECOMMENDED. THIS WILL GIVE AN AVERAGE OF ONE PEANUT EVERY 3 TO 4 INCHES IN THE ROW WHICH IS CONSIDERED A GOOD STAND.

### PLANTING TIME:

PEANUTS USUALLY ARE PLANTED BETWEEN APRIL 1 AND MAY 20.

### PLANTING DEPTH:

SHELLED PEANUTS SHOULD BE PLANTED 2 TO 3 INCHES DEEP IN MOIST SOIL.

### FERTILIZATION:

ON FERTILE SOILS, FERTILIZERS USUALLY ARE NOT NEEDED. TESTS IN KERN COUNTY USING PHOSPHATES GAVE NO INCREASE IN YIELDS.

### IRRIGATION:

A PRE-IRRIGATION IS NECESSARY TO SUPPLY MOISTURE FOR THE GERMINATION OF SEED. IF ADEQUATE

MOISTURE IS AVAILABLE TO A DEPTH OF 3 FEET AT SEEDING, THEN THE FIRST IRRIGATION MAY BE DELAYED UNTIL THE PLANTS START BLOOMING. CROP IRRIGATIONS SHOULD BE MORE FREQUENT THAN OTHER CROPS, PROBABLY EVERY 7 TO 10 DAYS.

AVAILABLE MOISTURE IS NEEDED DURING THE PERIOD OF BLOOMING AND NUT DEVELOPMENT. WATER MAY BE WITHHELD WHEN 90 PERCENT OF THE NUTS ARE MATURE. MATURITY CAN BE DETERMINED WHEN THE VEINS INSIDE THE PODS BEGIN TO DARKEN IN COLOR.

#### CULTIVATION:

CULTIVATION IS MAINLY TO CONTROL WEEDS. WEEDS SHOULD BE CONTROLLED WHEN PLANTS ARE SMALL. PROBABLY THREE CULTIVATIONS WILL BE SUFFICIENT.

#### HARVESTING:

LIFTING AND WINDROWING CAN BE DONE WITH A REGULAR POTATO DIGGER AS SOON AS THE GROUND IS DRY ENOUGH AFTER THE LAST IRRIGATION. THRESHING IN THE FIELD IS DONE WHEN THE MOISTURE OF THE NUTS IS ABOUT 15 TO 20 PERCENT. A REGULAR PEANUT THRESHER USUALLY IS USED.

PEANUTS MAY BE STORED SAFELY WHEN THE MOISTURE IS ABOUT 12 PERCENT.