

# PEANUTS

Sample

Costs of Production

Suggestions on Growing

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UC Cooperative Extension

## About These Cost Data---

The costs of production in any agricultural enterprise will vary considerably from ranch to ranch. The input and cost data in this booklet are sample costs. They are intended to be used only as educational guides in assisting you to appraise and plan your own crop and livestock program.

These cost data do not represent industry averages.

# SUGGESTIONS ON GROWING PEANUTS

By

Roy M. Barnes - Farm Advisor

## 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 commercially. 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, Sperguson or Phygon.

Arasan and Thiram 50 are used at the rate of two ounces per 100 pounds of seed; Sperguson and Phygon at the rate of three ounces per 100 pounds of seed.

Inoculating 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

COST ANALYSIS WORK SHEET

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE PEANUTS IN KERN COUNTY - 1965

Based on man labor at \$1.20 and \$1.40 per hour; 35 H.P. wheel tractor cash cost per hour \$1.10;  
 Depreciation \$.60; Interest \$.23

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Operations	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	\$ 3.50	\$ 2.75			\$ 6.25		
Plant	.5	.70	.55	Seed: 65 lbs. @ 32¢	\$20.80	22.05		
Irrigate: 1 pre, 7 crop	6.0	7.20	2.50	Water: 3 1/4 ft. @ \$6	19.50	29.20		
Cultivate: .3 times	1.5	2.10	1.65			3.75		
Taxes					12.50	12.50		
Miscellaneous overhead		3.20	2.60		4.00	9.80		
<b>Total Cultural Costs</b>		<b>\$16.70</b>	<b>\$10.05</b>		<b>\$56.80</b>	<b>\$ 83.55</b>		
<b>Harvest:</b>								
Lift and windrow - 2 men	.7	\$ 1.96	\$ .77			\$ 2.73		
Combine			Contract: \$20.00/Acre + 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>\$ 35.23</b>		
<b>Total Cash and Labor Costs</b>						<b>\$118.78</b>		
					Cash and Labor Cost per cwt. @ 2,000 lbs. yield	<b>(\$ 5.94)</b>		
<b>Costs at Varying Yields</b>								
<u>Pounds Per Acre</u>	<u>Total Cost Per CWT.</u>	<u>Investment</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Annual Cost</u>	<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Interest</u>		
1,500	\$13.22	Land	\$900.00			\$54.00		
2,000	10.07	Irrigation System	200.00	\$15.00		6.00		
2,500	8.18	Tractor: 6 hrs.		3.60		1.38		
		Equipment	20.00	2.00		.60		
		<b>Total</b>		<b>\$20.60</b>		<b>\$61.98</b>	<b>\$ 82.58</b>	
		<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</b>					<b>\$201.36</b>	
		<b>TOTAL COST PER CWT @ 2,000 LB. YIELD</b>					<b>\$ 10.07</b>	

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constantly being developed or added to existing ones, it is a good practice to inoculate 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 30 inches. A regular peanut or bean planter is used.

### PLANTING RATE:

Sixty-five pounds of shelled raw nuts 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 and require about 150 days from planting to maturity for maximum crop.

### PLANTING DEPTH:

Shelled peanuts should be planted 2 to 3 inches deep in moist soil.

### FERTILIZATION:

On fertile soils, commercial 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 shell begin to darken and show brown staining. At the same time the skins are light pink and papery thin.

## 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 11 percent.