



to help you get

*Higher Yields
and
Greater Profits
from*

Growing Peanuts

Issued by

TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

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EFFICIENT

Peanut Production is Your Job

Here are 7-Steps that will help you in your effort to increase the acre yield and profit from growing peanuts on your farm.

1. **Fit peanuts into balanced farming.**
2. **Take care of your soil.**
3. **Plant good seed properly treated.**
4. **Make your labor count.**
5. **Control diseases and insects.**
6. **Harvest and thresh for high grade.**
7. **Sell for grade and variety value.**

BETTER MARKETS—The National Peanut Council with the help of growers, industry, and government agencies, is working diligently to increase consumption of peanuts and peanut products, in order that you may be assured the best possible market for your peanuts.

GREATER SECURITY FOR PEANUT GROWERS—Every peanut grower is urged to follow the 7-Steps. They lead to balanced farming, efficient production and higher profits.

STEP

1

Fit Peanuts Into Balanced Farming

Peanuts should be grown in combination with other crops, pastures and livestock to balance farming operations and to make the best use during the year of the land, labor, farm equipment and workstock. One crop peanut farming leads to a wasteful distribution of labor on the farm and leaves the farmer at the mercy of market demands. Peanuts without other crops in the rotation are hard on the land. The depletion of soil fertility, organic matter and increased wind erosion hazards result from the removal of the entire peanut plant from the land. It is wise to fit the peanut crop into a balanced system of farming.

STEP

2

Take Care of Your Soil

A productive soil is the basis of a farmer's prosperity. A fertile soil usually produces profitable yields, whereas poor soils make disappointing yields. Peanuts will out yield other major crops on poor soil but greater yields come from land that has been properly handled. The use of poor practices can cause your land to become unproductive, blow or wash away. Build up soil fertility with legumes, crop residues and fertilizers. Terrace the land, if necessary, and practice crop rotation, including cover crops. Put steep or badly washed land in permanent cover, including pastures.

STEP

3

Plant Good Seed Properly Treated

Insure your crop by planting the best seed available of recommended varieties, and in sufficient quantity. No matter how fertile the soil or how well the land is prepared and cultivated, maximum yields cannot be made with poor seed or poor stands. Chemical treatment of shelled seed helps greatly to insure good stands. Good stands in turn are necessary for high yields.

STEP

4

Control Diseases and Insects

Peanut diseases take a big toll every year. The worst disease is southern blight which attacks the roots and nuts and leaves many of the healthy as well as diseased nuts in the ground during harvesting. Leaf spot also reduces the yield, especially during rainy weather. Among the insects, the leaf worms do the most damage. Controlling diseases and insects will result in greater yields.

STEP

5

Make Your Labor Count

Labor is one of the biggest costs in growing and harvesting peanuts. Increased yield per acre and use of improved machinery will lower costs. The proper use and placement of fertilizer, planting enough properly treated seed per acre, together with disease and insect control, soil improving crops and good, cultural methods will help to increase yields and profits.

STEP 6 Harvest and Thresh for High Grade

Everything possible should be done in harvesting peanuts to obtain high grades for top prices. Many peanuts are of low grade because of improper harvesting methods. Harvest them as soon as mature especially when Southern Blight is present. If windrowed, thresh them as soon as sufficiently dry, to reduce splitting of the kernels when the peanuts are shelled. Then cure them in sacks, either in ricks or artificially, if a drier is available.

Farmers are docked for the dirt, sticks and trash in the peanuts they haul to market. See that a good threshing job is done on your crop.

STEP 7 Know and Sell for Grade And Variety Value

There is a big difference in value of low grade and high grade peanuts. Clean, well filled nuts bring more money than shriveled, diseased and trashy ones. When you have produced good quality peanuts, get them graded and sell on grade. Plant only recommended varieties for market. Insofar as practical, the same variety should be grown on a community or county basis. Know the grade and value of the products you produce.

THE **Peanut**

FACES **Problems**

The average yield of peanuts is too low for profitable production, except at a high price per bushel. The acre yields need to be stepped up by good production methods. The peanut future will depend a good deal upon how well you do the job of reducing costs by increasing yields per acre and growing good quality nuts.

There are too many low grade peanuts marketed for which there is little demand but they help to glut the market. The remedy is to grow high quality peanuts.

Every peanut grower should study his business and seriously consider the facts. Follow the 7-Steps, practice balanced farming and produce efficiently a good quality product. Such a farming program will help solve many of the peanut problems.

See your county agricultural agent for help on the 7-Step Peanut Program in your county.