

AN ECONOMIC STUDY OF PEACH PRODUCTION IN LOUISIANA

By Fred D. Barlow, Jr., 1945.

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The author of this bulletin indicates that there is a good chance for peaches in the hill areas of northern Louisiana to replace or supplement cotton growing. The following cost, yield, and net profit figures are especially interesting.

Average yields for Louisiana 1940-44 were .75 bushels per tree. Average yields for the United States for the same period were 1.25 bushels per tree. Farmers in Louisiana may normally expect one poor peach crop out of five.

As a rule the farmers who used tractor power followed better management practices at a somewhat greater expense per acre than was the case with farmers who depended primarily on mule power. The

higher yields per acre secured by the tractor farmers resulted in a lower production cost per bushel and a higher net profit per acre.

The bulk of the crop is harvested in early July when Elberta peaches are picked. The principal varieties as reported by 31 orchards (25,123 trees) in northern Louisiana in 1944 were as follows:

Elberta	46%
J. H. Hale	25%
Belle of Georgia	6%
Golden Jubilee	5%
Indian Cling	2%
Red Bird	2%
Halberta Giant	1%
Fair's Beauty	1%
Other varieties	12%

Elberta seems superior to most other varieties. Any growth of the industry will accentuate the need for developing better grading, packaging and marketing practices.—W.P.J.

Costs, profits and yield per acre	Farms with tractor power		Farms with mule power	
	1935-39 prices	1944 prices	1935-39 prices	1944 prices
Cost of first 3 years	\$75.68	\$102.39	\$60.19	\$87.93
Annual net return, mature trees	58.68	196.56	44.08	150.54
Annual yield,	1.06 bushels		.84 bushels	

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