HOW TO PLAY THE MEXICAN JUMPING BEAN GAME.
(2 to 4) players is best. Each player picks one “lucky Jumping Bean.
Players place their “lucky” bean in the center circle carefully. (Don’t hurt them)
All the players (at the same time) release their “lucky” Jumping Bean
and withdraw your hands so you don’t get hurt in the stampede.
The Jumping Beans will begin their frantic dash for the ellipses.
The start and the path of the race to the ellipses are erratic, the
Jumping Beans bump into each other and even STOP, just before winning.
Dirty tactics of the Jumping Beans are permitted, it’s the winning that counts.
The eight ellipses are numbered 1 to 4. People that enjoy an occasional wager have
been known to place a small bet on their “lucky” Jumping Bean.
The first Jumping Bean to cross completely onto the ellipses wins.
If the winner crosses on the number 2, 3, or 4, then the other players pay the
winner the original wager multiplied by the number that the winner crossed onto.
If you wager, make it small amounts. The Government doesn’t like gambling
unless they get a piece of the action. GOOD LUCK!

FOR MORE BEANS CONTACT: OZ’S ENTERPRISES PHONE: (619) 691-1004
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GENERAL INFORMATION

THE BEANS

THE MEXICAN JUMPING BEANS (LASPEYRESIA SALITANS) COME FROM THE MOUNTAINS IN THE STATES OF SONORA AND SINALOA MEXICO. THEY CAN BE FOUND IN AN AREA THAT IS 30 MILES BY 100 MILES WHERE THE HOST PLANTS (SEBASTIANA PAVONIANA) GROWS. IN THE SPRING, THE MOTHS EMERGE FROM LAST YEAR'S BEANS AND DEPOSIT THE EGG ON THE FLOWERS OF THE HOST PLANTS (ACTUALLY TREES). THE EGG BURROWS ITS WAY INTO THE SEED AND SETS UP HOUSEKEEPING. THE EGG TURNS INTO A LARVA WHICH EATS THE SOFT TENDER HEART OF THE BEAN. BY THE TIME THE MONSOON RAINS COME IN JULY, THEY HAVE EATEN ALL THE BEANS TENDER INNARDS. THERE ARE 3 BEANS IN A POD AND IT IS COVERED BY A THIN SKIN, SIMILAR TO WALNUTS. THE TREES NEED ABOUT 20 DAYS TO SOAK UP ENOUGH WATER TO CAUSE THE SKIN TO DISGORGE THE BEANS, AGAIN SIMILAR TO THE WALNUTS.

THEIR JUMPING IS A SURVIVAL MEASURE, THE HEAT IS THEIR ENEMY. THEY JUMP TO ESCAPE THE HEAT AS IT WOULD DEHYDRATE AND KILL THEM. THEY SEARCH FOR A COOL DAMP PLACE TO SURVIVE UNTIL SPRING.

MANY YEAR AGO, THE BEAN HARVEST WAS OVER 12 MILLION BEANS PER YEAR, NOW IT IS ABOUT 1/5 THAT MUCH. THE SCARE OF INFESTATION AT THE VARIOUS BORDERS HAS MADE EXPORTATION MORE DIFFICULT.

THE PICKERS NOW ARE MOSTLY SENIOR CITIZENS.

TESTING THE BEANS

FIRST TEST IS TO A FEW BEANS IN YOUR HAND AND THEN SHAKE THEM NEAR YOUR EAR. IF THEY RATTLE THEY ARE DEAD.

SECOND HOLD THEM IN YOUR HAND UNTIL YOU FEEL THEM THUMP IN YOUR HAND. AT 98.6 DEGREES F. THEY SHOULD BE ACTIVE.

THIRD CUT ONE OPEN TO VIEW THEIR STATE OF HEALTH. IF THEY ARE LIGHT GREEN, THEY ARE IN GOOD HEALTH. IF THEY HAVE STARTED TO TURN BROWN ON THE ENDS, THEY ARE DYING.

AN INTERESTING THING HAPPENS, THE LARVA WILL USUALLY SPIN A WEB AND SEAL UP THE HOLE CUT IN THE SIDE OF THE BEAN.

OUR VOLUME DICATES WE TEST THEM ON RACKS AND THEY HAVE TO JUMP ABOUT 6 INCHES IN A SHORT TIME TO BE ACCEPTABLE FOR SALE.

THE U.V. RAYS FROM THE SUN APPEARS TO TRIGGER METAMORPHOSIS AND WILL CAUSE THE BEANS TO JUMPING EVEN IN COOL TEMPERATURES.

STORAGE OF THE BEANS

AFTER NUMEROUS EXPENSIVE LOSSES, WE DEDUCED THAT THE ONLY HOPE FOR EVERYONE'S BENEFIT WAS TO PUT THEM IN COOL STORAGE LIKE ALL PERISHABLE PRODUCTS. WE NOW KEEP THEM AWAY FROM HEAT FROM THE TIME WE BUY THEM UNTIL WE BRING THEM OUT OF THE COOLERS TO TEST THEM FOR SHIPMENT. WE PUT THEM INTO HIBERNATION. WE STORE THEM AT BETWEEN 45 TO 50 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT. FREEZING WILL KILL THEM INSTANTLY. THINK OF THEM LIKE A FLASHLIGHT, YOU TURN OFF THE ENERGY DRAIN OF JUMPING BY PUTTING THEM IN A COOL ENVIRONMENT.

SPRAYING THE BEANS WITH A LITTLE WATER IS A WASTE OF TIME.

TO REPLENISH THEIR WEIGHT LOSS DUE TO DEHYDRATION, YOU HAVE TO SOAK, SUBMERGE THEM IN DECHLORINATED WATER FOR ABOUT 5 HOURS, ONCE EACH MONTH. I BELIEVE THAT TO OPTIMIZE THE ENJOYMENT, NEARLY EVERY HOME HAS A GOOD STORAGE PLACE, NAMELY THE BUTTER COMPARTMENT IN THEIR REFRIGERATOR.

SEE MORE INFORMATION AT:
http://waynesword.palomar.edu/plaug97.htm