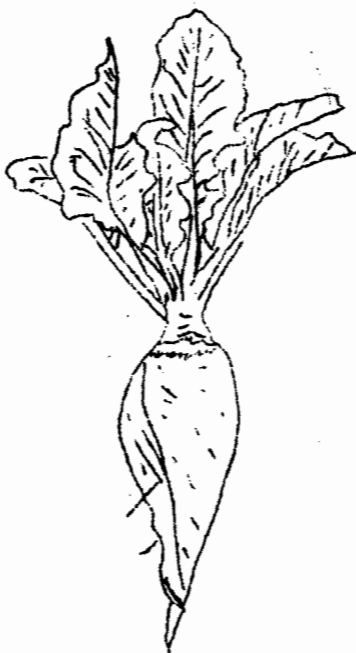


sugar beets  
sample costs  
and  
production



Agricultural Extension  
University of California  
Imperial County  
Court House, El Centro

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Cost Data Sheet No. 10

SUGAR BEETS--PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Labor at \$3.50 per hour (\$3.00 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, and fringe benefits).

Yield - 26 tons per acre bases.

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
<b>LAND PREPARATION</b>						
Plow or subsoil	13.50					\$ 13.50
Disc 2x	4.50					9.00
Build & Break borders	4.50					4.50
Flood		Water .9 ac ft	3.15	1.0	3.50	6.65
Disc 2x	4.50					9.00
Fertilize	3.00	300# 11-48-0	33.00			36.00
Fertilize	3.00	100# N	13.00			16.00
Float	4.00					4.00
List	5.00					5.00
<b>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION</b>						<b>\$ 103.65</b>

**GROWING PERIOD**

Incorporate	8.00	Herbicide	10.00			16.50 <sup>a/</sup>
Plant	7.00	Seed 2# raw	4.00			11.00
Cultivate	5.00					5.00
Thin	20.00	Machine or hand				20.00
Cultivate 2x	5.00					10.00
Fertilize 2x	3.00	80# N (2x)	49.60			52.60
Weed Control				10.8	37.80	37.80 <sup>b/</sup>
Insect Control 5x	3.00	Insecticide	27.50			42.50
Irrigate 12x <sup>c/</sup>		Water 5 ft	17.50	6.3	22.05 <sup>d/</sup>	39.55
<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>						<b>\$ 234.95</b>

**GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREP COSTS**

						\$ 338.60
Land rent (new lease)						130.00
Cash Overhead - 15% of preharvest costs and land rent						70.29
<b>TOTAL PREHARVEST COST</b>						<b>\$ 538.89</b>

**HARVEST COSTS**

Dig	1.70 per ton @ 26 tons per acre					44.20
Haule <sup>e/</sup>	1.50 per ton @ 26 tons per acre plus 5¢/ton after 6 miles (average 50¢ per ton mileage charge)					52.00
<b>TOTAL ALL COSTS</b>						<b>\$ 635.09</b>

Cost per ton = \$24.43

<sup>a/</sup>Post application of either IPC<sup>®</sup> or Betanal<sup>®</sup> may be need at a cost of \$13.50/ac.

<sup>b/</sup>Layby application may be needed TOK<sup>®</sup> @ \$21.50/ac or Eptam<sup>®</sup> @ \$7.00/ac.

<sup>c/</sup>If sprinklers are used for germinating crop, additional cost is \$70.00/A. Cost per ton of beets using sprinklers = \$27.12.

<sup>d/</sup>Includes shovel labor, pipesetting, miscellaneous tractor work.

<sup>e/</sup>Railroad freight cost not included.

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** The average yield, acreage and value for sugar beets during the last five years are given below.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>YIELD/ACRE</u>	<u>VALUE/TON</u>
1970	58,000	23.5	16.80
1971	59,000	26.3	18.30
1972	61,000	25.8	18.20
1973	64,000	24.7	20.20
1974	65,000	26.8	51.18

**SEED BED PREPARATION:** Costs based in the guideline on flat pre-irrigation due to slightly lower costs, tendency towards lowering salinity levels, and usually better soil condition in the seed bed.

## SEEDING RATES

A slightly greater amount of seed is generally used in early plantings due to difficulty in getting stands in the extremely hot weather.

## PLANTING DATES

The usual planting season begins in September and continues through October.

## VARIETIES

The varieties USH 10 or 9 is recommended because of their good virus yellows tolerance and they are good yielders.

## FERTILIZATION

Phosphate--broadcast before listing.

Nitrogen-- Apply 1/3 of required amount with phosphate preplant, 1/3 at thinning and final 1/3 before mid-December. Late applications of nitrogen will reduce sugar percentage and purity.

## IRRIGATION

Irrigation is by furrows. The crop is "irrigated up" initially and may require "watering back" within four or five days to

get a stand. Never allow the crop to wilt or suffer from shortage of water. Ten to 20 irrigations may be required. Last irrigation should be applied at least 30 days prior to harvest.

## WEED CONTROL

Most growers are using herbicides for weed control in sugar beets. The preemergence herbicides are used by most growers. Consult Weed Control Recommendations - Imperial County or the Weed Control Farm Advisor for latest information.

## PESTS AND DISEASES

Pest populations vary from year to year and costs vary accordingly. A number of insects and diseases may be a problem during the growing season. Growers planting extremely early should exercise all caution against damage by inspecting fields often and carefully. Crickets, flea beetles and armyworms normally occur as seedling pests and are especially damaging in early plantings. From January to March the green peach aphid is a primary pest. Spider mites and leafhoppers occur as late season pests. Consult Pest Control Recommendations - Imperial County.

Nematodes are continuing to be a major pest. Growers should carefully clean all machinery moving into the beet fields. Crop rotation is the only control presently feasible.

Prepared by  
Imperial County  
Agricultural Extension Staff

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