

## PLANTING RATES, DATES AND VARIETIES

Plant from 20 to 40 pounds of annual ryegrass per acre. Heavier rates may be needed on soils high in salt. Ryegrass may be planted from mid-September through November. Early plantings in September are excellent if weather has cooled down. Ucivex is normally a superior yielder and is recommended in Imperial Valley. Most any annual ryegrass variety can be grown in the valley. When in doubt, consult your local farm advisor.

## FERTILIZER

Apply 50 to 100 pounds of nitrogen as  $NH_3$  preplant. Then apply fifty units of N as ammonium nitrate or  $NH_3$  in the water after each pasturing or as needed. Approximately 200 pounds of total N should be applied during the growing season. The amount to apply depends on the previous crop. Ryegrass needs a lot of nitrogen for economic returns but "don't" overdo it as nitrate poisoning may result. Toxic levels, when present, are normally found in rapidly growing plants. Imperial Valley soils usually contain sufficient phosphorus for rye-

grass production if phosphates have been applied to other crops in the rotation.

## IRRIGATION

Ryegrass usually thrives under moist soil conditions. Usually quick applications of irrigation water are sufficient unless leaching of salts is intended. Ryegrass will need about eleven irrigations during the growing period.

## WEED CONTROL

Weed control is not normally necessary in ryegrass pasture. 2,4-D gives excellent control of broad-leaf plants if weed control measures are needed.

## PASTURING

It takes about 75 days under good conditions from planting to pasturing ryegrass.

Ryegrass is normally pastured on a 28 to 40 day cycle. Four fields are pastured on a 7 to 10 day schedule. Stocking rate on the overall acreage will range from 3 to 5 head per actual acre planted.

If only  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the overall acreage is pastured at one time, the stocking rate for that area would be 4 x 3-5 cattle per acre or 12-20 cattle per acre.

# annual ryegrass pasture sample costs and production



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To clarify our information, it is sometimes necessary to use trade names of products or equipment. No endorsement of named products is intended nor is criticism implied of similar products which are not mentioned.

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Cost Data Sheet No. 6

ANNUAL RYEGRASS PASTURE--PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS--1982-1983

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Labor at \$5.50 per hour (\$4.30 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance and fringe benefits.)

OPERATION	Custom	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		SAMPLE COSTS
	Rate	Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	Per Acre
<b>LAND PREPARATION</b>						
Disc 2x	8.00					\$ 16.00
Fertilize	7.50	75-100# NH <sub>3</sub>	17.00			24.50
Border	7.50					7.50
Float 2x	7.50					15.00
<b>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION</b>						<b>\$ 63.00</b>

<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>						
Plant	12.00	Seed 40# @ 30¢ lb.	12.00			\$ 24.00
Irrigate 1lx		3.5 ac/ft	26.25	4	22.00	48.25
Fertilize 3x		200# N @ 17¢ lb.	34.00			34.00
<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>						<b>\$ 106.25</b>

<b>GROWING PERIOD &amp; LAND PREPARATION COSTS</b>						<b>\$ 169.25</b>
Land Rent (gross)						130.00
Cash Overhead--10% of growing, land preparation & land rent						29.93
<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>						<b>\$ 329.18</b>

Based on 700 pounds of beef produced per acre, the cost per pound of gain would be:

**\$0.47**

Cost Per Cwt of Gain

Calculations below show the cost per cwt of gain at various stocking rates and rates of gain based on the sample cost sheet. The grazing period was assumed to be 150 days.

**EFFECTS OF AVERAGE DAILY GAIN AND STOCKING RATE ON COSTS PER CWT GAIN**

Average Daily Gain	Stocking Rate (Steers per Acre)						
	2.00	2.50	3.00	3.50	4.00	4.50	5.00
1.0	\$109.73	\$87.78	\$73.15	\$62.70	\$54.86	\$48.77	\$43.89
1.1	99.75	79.80	66.50	57.00	49.88	44.33	39.90
1.2	91.44	73.15	60.95	52.25	45.72	40.64	36.58
1.3	84.40	67.52	56.27	48.23	42.20	37.51	33.76
1.4	78.38	62.70	52.25	44.79	39.19	34.83	31.35
1.5	73.15	58.52	48.77	41.30	36.58	32.51	29.26
1.6	68.53	54.86	45.72	39.19	34.29	30.48	27.43
1.7	64.55	51.64	43.03	36.88	32.27	28.69	25.82
1.8	60.96	48.77	40.64	34.83	30.48	27.09	24.38
1.9	57.75	46.20	38.50	33.00	28.88	25.67	23.10
2.0	54.86	43.89	36.58	31.35	27.43	24.38	21.95

GENERAL INFORMATION: The acreage and value for annual ryegrass pasture during the last five years are given below:

YEAR	ACRES	VALUE/TON
1977	5600	\$ 190
1978	8294	170
1979	2438	180
1980	900	180
1981	5800	190

SOIL PREPARATION: A uniform seed bed is a pre-requisite to a good stand. High spots in the field cause an uneven germination, irrigation and poor stands result.