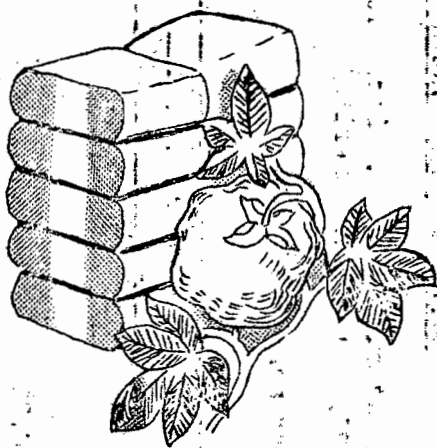


cotton
sample costs
and
production



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

Cost Data Sheet No. 4
UC Cooperative Extension

COTTON--SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Labor at \$2.15 per hour (\$1.90 plus Social Security, unemployment, and fringe benefits).

Yield - 3.00 bales per acre.

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
LAND PREPARATION						
Plow or subsoil	\$ 8.00					\$ 8.00
Disc 2x	2.00					4.00
Fertilize	1.00	100 lb N(NH ₃)	6.00			7.00
Flame	1.00					1.00
List	3.00					3.00
Irrigate		water .5 ac ft	1.15	.5	1.10	2.25
Cultivate	3.00					3.00
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						28.25
GROWING PERIOD						
Plant and Incorporate	10.00	seed 20# @ .21	4.20			
		herbicide	5.25			
		fungicide	2.00			21.45
Cultivate 3x	3.00					9.00
Fertilize 3x	3.00	100# N (NH ₃) 3x	18.00			27.00
Hoe & weed				5.2	11.00	11.00
Insect control 12x	2.25	insecticide	40.00			67.00
Layby herbicide	3.50	herbicide	5.00			8.50
Irrigate 12x		water 6 ac ft	14.10	5.6	12.00	26.00
Defoliate	2.00	10 gal.	7.50			9.50
TOTAL GROWING PERIOD						179.45
HARVEST COSTS						
Machine picking	21.00 per bale	(\$1.35 cwt seed cotton first pick and \$1.60 second pick with \$ 5/A minimum)				65.70
Hauling	1.00/bale					3.00
Ginning	1.35/cwt of seed cotton*					
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS						68.70
Rent (does not include allotment)						50.00
Cash overhead 15% of above						48.96
TOTAL COSTS						\$ 375.36

Cost per pound = 25.02¢

*Ginning cost has usually been offset by seed sales.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The production per acre for the county the last five years has ranged from 980 to 1717 pounds of lint per acre. Prices ranged from \$.235 to \$.380 per pound lint. Yield is partially affected by the amount of skip row cotton planted each year in the county.

LAND PREPARATION

Cotton usually is grown on raised beds 38 to 42 inches apart. The crop is generally planted in a semi-mulch and irrigated up.

Cotton can be grown on all soil types in Imperial County. Sloping beds will usually give better stands where salinity is a problem.

PLANTING DATES AND RATES

Cotton can be planted from March through April. Yields decrease when cotton is planted later than early April. A soil temperature of at least 60 F at a depth of 8 inches is desirable. Spacings within the row of 3 to 12 inches result in approximately the same yields.

VARIETIES

Delta Pine 16, Stoneville 508, Stoneville 213, and Acala Imperial have been successfully grown.

FERTILIZATION

About 250-300 pounds of nitrogen per acre will produce a good crop on solid planted cotton. About 400 pounds of nitrogen per acre are required for skip row cotton. The applications should be made before planting, at thinning, and in June and July. Although tests have shown no yield increases due to phosphate application, it is a common practice in some areas.

IRRIGATION

Do not allow the plants to remain wilted for extended periods of time. Acala types require less frequent irrigation.

WEED CONTROL

Several herbicides are now in common use both as preemergence and layby treatments. Consult Weed Control Recommendations - Imperial County.

INSECT CONTROL

The pink bollworm and the cotton leaf perforator are widespread and pose a serious threat to cotton production. The presence of these insect pests results in increased cost for pest control since multiple applications are necessary to keep them in check. The insecticide costs included in this circular could be higher depending upon the presence of these and other pests.

Many pests attack cotton in Imperial County. For the latest control recommendations, consult the Pest Control Recommendations for Imperial County Field Crops. Copies are available at your Farm Advisor's Office.

DISEASE CONTROL

Seedling diseases can reduce cotton stands to the point where replanting may be necessary. The seedling disease problem frequently is more severe where cotton follows sugar beets or alfalfa.

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