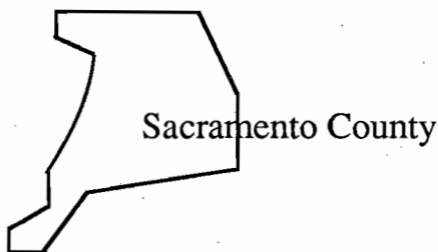


# SUDANGRASS SEED

1989



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
UC Cooperative Extension

## 1989 SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE SUDANGRASS SEED

**SOIL REQUIREMENTS** - Can be grown on shallow soils.

**PLANTING DATES** - Plant anytime after May 1 up through June. Later plantings can be wind or rain damaged near harvest. Plant with a drill or broadcaster.

**HARVEST DATES** - August, September, or October harvest.

**VARIETIES** - Seed is usually grown as certified Piper variety, but others may be grown, depending on seed contract.

**SEEDING RATE** - Sudangrass is planted at 20-30 pounds of seed per acre.

**FERTILIZER** - Apply 100-200 pounds of Nitrogen as  $\text{NH}_3$  preplant. Fertilizer 11-52-0 is commonly applied at 200 pounds per acre at seeding.

**IRRIGATION** - Irrigation may be needed every 10 days between May and September, amounting to about 9 irrigations for a total of 3 acre-feet.

**YIELDS** - Average 2,500 pounds of seed per acre.

**INSECT PROBLEMS** - Beet armyworm is the most common insect pest.

**WEED PROBLEMS** - Sudangrass grown for seed MUST BE FREE FROM JOHNSONGRASS! Atrazine for grass control and 2,4-D for broadleaf weed control are commonly used in sudangrass seed production. Roundup can be used for spot treatments of johnsongrass outside the field. Morningglory (field bindweed) is a common broadleaf weed of concern to many growers.

**SAMPLE COST TO PRODUCE SUDANGRASS SEED**

CROP .....	SUDANGRASS	GROSS INCOME .....	\$ 375.00
YIELD/ACRE IN POUNDS .....	2,500	TOTAL CASH EXPENSE/ACRE .....	470.58
MARKET VALUE/POUND .....	\$ 0.15	NET LOSS/ACRE .....	\$ -95.58

CULTURAL COSTS: FUEL & SEED

	<u>COST/A</u>	<u>LABOR COST/A</u>	<u>YOUR COST/A</u>
Disc 2x	\$ 1.42	\$ 1.76	_____
Chisel, apply fert, pull float	2.11	2.10	_____
Level plane	0.88	0.88	_____
Border construction	0.25	0.25	_____
Plane 1x between borders	0.88	0.88	_____
Plant with drill	0.17	0.88	_____
Seed (30#/a)	15.00		_____
Employee pickups	3.14		_____
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 23.85</b>	<b>\$ 6.75*</b>	_____

IRRIGATION

Irrigate 8x (3 ac/ft total) (electricity/diesel) (\$10/irrigation)	\$ 80.00	\$ 0.40	_____
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 80.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.40*</b>	_____

CHEMICALS

APPLICATION

Preplant Nitrogen (200#/a), aqua or NH <sub>3</sub>	\$ 34.00		_____
Starter 11-52-0 (200#/a)	30.00		_____
Atrazine 4L (0.5gpa)	6.50	\$ 5.50	_____
Roundup for Johnsongrass (outside field)	0.20		_____
Lannate/Nudrin for armyworm (0.5#/a)	12.00	5.50	_____
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 82.70</b>	<b>\$ 11.00</b>	_____

HARVEST

Crop Improvement Field Inspection	\$ 0.75		_____
Swather (custom rate)	8.00		_____
Harvester (custom rate)	40.00		_____
Hauling (.002/lb x 2,500lb)	5.00		_____
Seed Cleaning (.03/lb x 2,500lb) (includes processing charges and inspection fee)	75.00		_____
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$128.75</b>		_____

LABOR

Cultural (\$5.25/hr)	\$ 6.75		_____
Irrigation (\$4.75/hr)	0.40		_____
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 7.14</b>		_____

\* Included in labor budget

CASH OVERHEAD

	<u>COST/A</u>	<u>YOUR COST/A</u>
Cash rental agreement (\$50-60/a)	\$ 50.00	_____
Management salary/benefits and	16.32	_____
Repairs, maintenance, supplies	30.00	_____
Employee benefits (36% of labor costs)	2.57	_____
Insurance	5.00	_____
Taxes on equipment	<u>2.57</u>	_____
TOTAL:	\$106.46	_____

DEBT SERVICE

Interest on operating loan	\$ 29.25	_____
Interest on equipment	<u>1.43</u>	_____
TOTAL:	\$ 30.68	_____

TOTAL GROSS INCOME ..... \$ 375.00

TOTAL CASH EXPENSE/ACRE ... 470.58

NET LOSS/ACRE ..... \$ -95.58

NON-CASH COSTS

Equipment Depreciation	\$ 20.00	_____
Interest on Buildings	0.24	_____
Building Depreciation	<u>3.33</u>	_____
TOTAL:	\$ 23.57	_____