

*Agricultural Briefs*

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

## SUDANGRASS SEED PRODUCTION

Soil Requirements: Adapted to wide variety of soils ranging from shallow hardpans to deep loams. Usually raised in Sacramento County in rotation with Ladino Clover.

Planting Dates: April 15 - May 30.

Harvest Dates: Late August - September.

Varieties: Piper Sudangrass and privately owned hybrids requiring strip planting of male sterile and pollinator.

Seeding Rate: 25-30 lbs/acre drilled.

Fertilizer Requirements: Usually 150-200 lbs of nitrogen + 100 lbs  $P_2O_5$  on P deficient soils. On non P deficient soil use starter fertilizer providing N + about 20 lbs of  $P_2O_5$ . Utilize soil analysis to determine need for phosphate fertilizer.

Irrigation: Preirrigate if necessary, plant into moisture. On shallow soils irrigations every 10-14 days after crop shades the ground.

Normal Yield: 2500-3000 lbs/acre.

Insect Problems: Usually none, but occasionally true Armyworm needs control.

Disease Problems: Usually none.

Weed Problems: Watergrass which may be controlled by irrigation management or use of selective herbicide either preplant, preemergence of the Sudangrass or postemergence of Sudangrass and Watergrass. Broadleaf weeds especially morning glory may present a problem but are controlled with 2,4-D amine

CAUTION: FOLLOW ALL LABEL DIRECTIONS AND PRECAUTIONS!

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TST/jch  
5/1975

SAMPLE COST TO PRODUCE SUDANGRASS  
Sacramento County, 1975

Yield: 2800 lbs. per acre

Labor Rates: \$2.20 for unskilled,  
\$3.90 for skilled  
including fringe  
benefits.

Operation	Hours per Acre	Cash and Labor cost per acre				Total
		Fuel and Labor	Repairs	Materials Kind and Quantity	Cost	
<u>Cultural Costs</u>						
Disk 2 X	.8	3.15	5.70			8.85
Ridge	.2	.80	.60			1.40
Fertilize	.2	.80	.70	N 200# @ 30¢	60.00	61.50
				100# P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> @ 30¢	30.00	30.00
Drag-Shape Levees	.3	1.20	1.70			2.90
Springtooth	.2	.80	1.20			2.00
Harrow & Roll	.2	.80	1.75			2.55
Plant	.2	.80	1.50	30# Seed @ 20¢	6.00	8.30
Irrigate 9 X	1.2	2.65		3½ ac. ft. @ \$3.00	10.50	13.15
Weed Control					4.00	4.00
Atrazine					12.75	12.75
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS</b>		<b>\$11.00</b>	<b>\$13.15</b>		<b>\$123.25</b>	<b>\$147.40</b>
<u>Harvest Costs</u>						
Swath	.25	1.00	1.00			2.00
Combine	1.0	3.90	9.65			13.55
Haul				1.7 tons @ \$3.50/Ton	5.95	
Cleaning				1.4 tons @ \$2.00/CWT	56.00	
<b>TOTAL HARVEST COSTS</b>		<b>\$ 4.90</b>	<b>\$10.65</b>		<b>\$61.95</b>	<b>\$ 77.50</b>
<u>Cash Overhead</u>						
Misc., office, etc.					13.25	
Taxes					2.20	
Rent					75.00	
<b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</b>						<b>\$ 90.45</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH COST</b>		<b>\$15.90</b>	<b>\$23.80</b>		<b>\$265.40</b>	<b>\$305.10</b>
Management 5% of 2800 @ \$.05						7.00
<u>INVESTMENT</u>						
		<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Annual Cost</u>			
			<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Interest 9%</u>		
Equipment		\$220	\$22.00	\$9.90		
<b>Total</b>						<b>\$ 31.90</b>
<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</b>						<b>\$354.25</b>
Cost per pound @ 2800# Yield						12.6¢