

*Agricultural Briefs*

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

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SR-SV-80

1980 SAMPLE COST TO PRODUCE GRAIN SORGHUM

SOIL REQUIREMENTS: The highly productive organic and mineral soils as well as deeper upland soils.

PLANTING DATES: Main season - May 10 to June 15; Double crop - June 15 to July 15. Soil temperature at planting depth should be over 65°F.

HARVEST DATES: September 15 to December 15.

VARIETIES: PAG 4432, Asgrow Corral, Northrup King 1580, Funks HW-1771, Pioneer 846.

SEEDING RATE: Full season - 15-18 lbs/ac; small sized, early maturing varieties for late planting 8-25 lbs/ac.

FERTILIZER REQUIREMENT: Organic soil - 13-20 lbs P/ac. (30-45 lbs P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>). Mineral soil - starter fertilizer with N, P and K if soil is very P deficient, 100-150 lbs. N pre-fertilized plus 13-20 lbs P. (30-45 lbs P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>).

IRRIGATION: 1-1/2 to 2 acre feet of water. On organic soil sub-irrigate. On mineral soil sprinkler, flood, or furrow irrigate, three to five irrigations needed.

WEED CONTROL: Cultivation two to four times. 2,4-D may be used for broadleaved weed control. Atrazine + oil is recommended for early post-emergence for both watergrass and broadleaved weeds.

INSECT CONTROL: Greenbug can be a severe problem, especially when sorghum is young. Can be controlled with Systox or Di-Syston. Control not as essential as plants head out. Some varieties have greenbug resistance.

DISEASE CONTROL: Head smut - resistant varieties. Root rot and lodging - avoid moisture stress, especially in salt and alkali areas, use adapted varieties.

Prepared by: Jack P. Orr, Field & Vegetable Crops Farm Advisor

UC Cooperative Extension

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS, Division of Agricultural Sciences,  
University of California, U.S. Department of Agriculture and County of Sacramento cooperating

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Operation	Hours/ Acre	Labor/ Acre	Elect & Fuel/ Acre	Repairs/ Acre	Material Kinds & Quantity/Acre	TOTAL COST	
						Mineral Soil	Peat Soil
<u>CULTURAL</u>							
Chop wheat stubble	0.20	0.80	3.70	0.23		\$ 3.03	\$ 3.03
Plow	0.34	1.36	2.80	1.63		5.79	5.79
Disc 2X	0.26	1.04	3.40	0.68		5.12	5.12
Leveler finish 2X	0.52	2.08	3.19	0.73		6.00	6.00
Chisel 2X	0.80	3.20	12.50	0.64		16.34	16.34
Spring Tooth-Float-Ringroll	0.13	0.52	0.94	0.26		1.72	1.72
Pre-fertilizer, list beds	0.25	1.00	1.00	0.17	\$2 applic. 150 lbs/ac N @ 25¢/lb	39.67	----
Plant-Fertilizer (Starter (2 men)	0.40	3.20	1.10	1.02	12 lbs/ac seed @ 50¢/lb = \$6 + 30 gal/ac - 4-10-10 + \$23.00	34.32	34.32
Cultivate 2X	0.50	2.00	3.00	1.20		6.20	6.20
Irrigate 5X (mineral) 5X (peat)	5.00	20.00	6.66			26.66 ---	---- 8.00
Weed Control (post emergence)					Atrazine + oil \$9.50 1.0 lb/ac + 1 gal/ac \$2.25 + 0.5% X-72 - 0.50¢/ac + air applic. - \$4.75	17.00	17.00
Insecticide (green-bug control)					Di-Syston 1 pt/ac - \$4.53	9.28	9.28
Open & Close ditches		1.00	1.00		Air applic. \$4.75	2.00	---
Spud ditch		1.00	4.00			----	5.00
Drain maintenance						3.00	3.00
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS</b>						<b>\$176.13</b>	<b>\$120.80</b>

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<u>HARVEST</u>							
Harvest (own harvester) 25 ac/day	0.4	2.40	4.00			\$ 6.40	\$ 6.40
<u>CASH OVERHEAD</u>							
Taxes on equipment	\$343 x 0.93 = \$318.99 x 25% = \$79.24 x 0.13 = \$10.36					10.36	10.36
Rent 1/4 gross	3 tons/ac @ \$100/ton = \$300 x 25% = \$75.00					75.00	75.00
Misc office, pick-up, secretary						7.50	7.50
Workman's Comp 7-1/2%						2.89	1.72
Social Security 0.0613						1.77	.83
Fringe Benefits (10%)health ins., unemployment, life ins., vacation						2.89	1.36
<u>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</u>						\$100.41	\$ 96.77
<u>TOTAL CASH COST/ACRE</u>						\$282.94	\$223.97
<u>TOTAL CASH COST/TON</u> 3 tons/ac						\$ 94.31	\$ 74.65
Management 5% gross						\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
<u>INVESTMENT</u>							
	<u>Per Acre</u>		<u>Depreciation</u>		<u>Interest 12% on 50% Balance</u>		
Buildings (30 yr. life)	\$ 46.00		\$ 1.53		\$ 2.76		
Equipment (8-10 yr. life) 1976	367.80		36.78		22.06		
	\$413.80		\$38.31		\$24.82	\$ 56.29	\$ 56.29

Labor: \$4.00/hr  
Harvester Operator: \$6.00/hr

Diesel: \$1.25/gal  
Repairs: 1978 Farm Machinery Costs, A.D. Reed, L.A. Horel