

2/156
600 c.
3.15

University of California
Agricultural Extension Service
Imperial County
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COTTON - 1956

WHAT DOES IT COST YOU TO GROW COTTON?
(Based on yield of 2.0 bales or 2940# seed cotton per acre)

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS		YOUR COSTS	
	Per A.	Per Cwt. (lint)	Per A.	Per Cwt.
LAND PREPARATION--LABOR & FIELD POWER				
Sub soil or plow 1x	5.00			
Disc 2x	3.00			
Land plane 1x	2.75			
Fertilize	1.25			
Listing 1x	2.50			
Mulching 1x	1.75			
TOTAL FOR LAND PREPARATION	16.25	1.63		
CULTURAL LABOR AND FIELD POWER				
Plant	2.25			
Cultivate 3-5x	6.75			
Fertilize & furrow out	1.50			
Hoeing & weeding 1 or more x	20.00			
Irrigation 12x	7.00			
Pest control 4x	6.00			
TOTAL FOR CULTURAL LABOR, ETC.	43.50	4.35		
MATERIALS				
Irrigation water $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft.	8.00			
Seed--20# @ \$173/ton	1.75			
Fertilizer--160# N, 65# P ₂ O ₅	30.50			
Insecticides	20.00			
Miscellaneous	2.00			
TOTAL FOR MATERIALS	62.25	6.23		
HARVESTING				
Picking \$3.00/100 lbs.	88.20			
Weighing .25/100 lbs.	7.32			
Hauling	2.00			
Ginning - bags & ties, etc.	20.33			
Insurance, storage fees, etc.	2.00			
TOTAL FOR HARVESTING	119.85	11.99		
CASH OVERHEAD				
General expense--5% of above	12.09			
Repairs	1.00			
Compensation insurance	1.50			
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD	14.59	1.46		
Depreciation (items not included above)	1.00	.10		
Rent on land	50.00	5.00		
TOTAL ALL COSTS	307.44	30.74		
Less income from seed -- 1705# @ \$48.00/ton	40.92	4.09		
NET COST OF LINT	266.52	26.65		

Based on 34% lint, 58% seed.

The above sample costs are based on contract rates which presumably are higher than efficient owner-operator costs. Taxes are included in rent. Estimate your own costs by filling in the last two columns based on yields you could reasonably expect and costs of operations and material that would be required on your land.

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COTTON

VARIETIES: Acala 4-42 strain of Upland cotton is grown over practically the entire acreage.

YIELDS: Average about 1.9 bales/acre. Range from 1 bale to 3+ bales.

PRICE: Middling 1 1/16" staple.

	Av. Prices Received	Farity	Acres
1955	35.02 (Nov.)	36.44 (Nov.)	43,955
1954	36.12 (year)	36.42 (year)	64,825
1953	34.70 "	35.81 "	112,895
1952	36.77 "	35.60 "	87,746
1951	40.29 "	35.65 "	31,074

PLANTING DATES: April 1 to April 15. Earlier and later is possible. There is little or no advantage in planting earlier. Later planting usually has lower yield.

PLANTING: Most plantings are made on raised beds with 18 to 24 pounds of seed per acre. Plant in moist beds after pre-irrigation and mulching or irrigate up. Use seed treated to protect against fungi and soil borne insects. Rows are spread 40 inches apart. Spacings within the row of 2 to 12 inches are used with little differences in yield resulting. Wider spacings reduce yield.

SOILS: Cotton is tolerant of many soil and water variations. Medium textured, well drained soils will give the better yields. Sloping beds will usually give better stands where salinity is a problem. Adequate water penetration becomes a problem on heavy soils. Maintaining adequate fertility is difficult on sandy soils.

IRRIGATION: Do not allow the plants to wilt at any time. This is the real essential of a good irrigation schedule. Extra water does not cut yields too much, but may increase water grass problems and leach out fertility.

FERTILIZERS: Phosphate when used should all be applied ahead of or at planting time. At least a part of the nitrogen should be available to young plants at planting time. This may mean pre-plant applications. Side place rest of nitrogen in one or two applications after plants are up. Each bale of cotton on the average accounts for about 60 to 70 pounds of actual nitrogen. This must come from the soil or from nitrogen applied for the crop. If cotton becomes yellow or off color, nitrogen deficiency is the usual answer. Put on more nitrogen. Do not apply later than last part of August. Fertilizer is most efficient when applied early in the season.

WEED CONTROL: Weed control will be helped by these things: 1) Use close spacing; 2) Plant in mulched moist ground; 3) Irrigate only when necessary to keep plants from wilting; 4) Cultivate as long into season as possible; and, 5) Hoe when necessary to control weeds.

INSECT CONTROL AND DISEASES: Treat only when a specific problem arises. Preventive treatments are often expensive and undesirable. See 1955 Cotton Insect Control Suggestions. Your Farm Advisors, Court House, El Centro, California, are available for any specific problem.

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