

Rec April 1956

SESBANIA PRODUCTION
DESERT VALLEYS, RIVERSIDE COUNTY

GENERAL

Sesbania or wild hemp is a legume that has been used many years as a summer green manure crop and is often used in conjunction with a leaching program during the summer months as it will tolerate large amounts of water. It is a quick-growing crop producing 25 tons of green manure in 45 to 60 days or 400 to 500 pounds of seed.

TIME OF PLANTING

If a green manure crop is desired, sesbania should be planted July 1 to 10 to allow the crop to grow during the hottest 60 days of the summer. For seed production the crop should be planted about August 1st. The later planting prevents the crop from growing too high for harvesting.

SEED BED PREPARATION AND PLANTING

Sesbania may be drilled in shallow, dry soil and irrigated up, or seeded with a plane in the mud following a flooding. If drilled, an ordinary grain drill may be used, putting 25 - 30 pounds of seed into well-prepared seed bed. Somewhat less preparation would be necessary for flying in the seed. Some growers like to allow the ground to crack before seeding, as this insures proper covering of the seed.

FERTILIZATION

No fertilizer is ordinarily needed, but the seed should be inoculated with a suitable bacteria.

CULTIVATION-IRRIGATION

The crop is not cultivated and is usually kept wet or standing in water. About 8 irrigations are required, or the water may be kept standing on the field after the crop is up 8 - 12 inches until mature.

INSECTS

Sesbania is not usually bothered by insects or diseases. Occasionally alfalfa caterpillars may be a problem, but treatment is not usually necessary.

HARVESTING

If crop is to be turned under as a green manure crop it should not be allowed to become woody. It is normally ready for turning under at 45 to 60 days. For seed harvest the plants must be allowed to mature and dry. Ordinary threshing equipment has trouble harvesting sesbania seed and it is necessary to adapt equipment for this special purpose.

Prepared by Win Lawson, Farm Advisor, Agricultural Extension Service, University of California, Room 7, Post Office Building, Riverside, with Wallace Sullivan, Extension Economist.

WHAT DOES IT COST YOU TO GROW SESBANIA
IN THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY DESERT VALLEYS

Based on Yield of 400# Seed or 25 Ton Green Manure (Palo Verde Valley)

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS			YOUR COSTS		
	Per Acre	Per Cwt. Seed	Per Ton Green M.	Per Acre	Per Cwt. Seed	Per Ton Green M.
<u>Preparation and Plant</u>						
Disc 1x.	\$ 2.00			.....	.....	.....
Border	1.00			.....	.....	.....
Irrigate . . . . .	.40			.....	.....	.....
Plant (grain drill). . .	2.00			.....	.....	.....
Ditch and miscellaneous.	1.00			.....	.....	.....
PREPARATION & PLANT TOTAL. .	\$ 6.40	\$ 1.60	\$.26	.....	.....	.....
<u>Materials</u>						
Irrigate 8x.	\$ 1.60			.....	.....	.....
Seed - 25# @ 10¢	2.50			.....	.....	.....
Irrigation water 1/2 yr.	6.00			.....	.....	.....
MATERIAL COST TOTAL.	\$10.10	\$ 2.52	\$.40	.....	.....	.....
<u>Cash Overhead</u>						
General expense 5% . . .	\$.83			.....	.....	.....
Taxes	3.00			.....	.....	.....
Insurance. . . . .	.25			.....	.....	.....
Miscellaneous.	1.00			.....	.....	.....
CASH OVERHEAD TOTAL.	\$ 5.08	\$ 1.27	\$.20	.....	.....	.....
Disc 2x - green manure .	\$ 4.00	\$ 1.00	\$.16	.....	.....	.....
*TOTAL CASH COSTS AS GREEN MANURE	\$25.58	\$ 6.39	\$1.02	.....	.....	.....
<u>FOR SEED CROP</u>						
Total Cash Cost To Grow Crop \$25.58 Less \$4 for Disc 2x .	\$21.58	\$ 5.39	\$.86	.....	.....	.....
<u>Harvest</u>						
Combining.	\$ 7.00			.....	.....	.....
Haul . . . . .	.60			.....	.....	.....
Sacks - 3 @ 90¢.	2.70			.....	.....	.....
SEED HARVEST TOTAL	\$10.30	\$ 2.58	\$.41	.....	.....	.....
TOTAL CASH COST FOR SEED . .	\$31.88	\$ 7.97	\$1.27	.....	.....	.....
<u>Other Costs</u>						
Land rent or interest on investment	\$20.00	\$ 5.00	\$.80	.....	.....	.....
Management-estimate your own . . . . .	-	-	-	.....	.....	.....
TOTAL COST FOR SEED.	\$51.88	\$12.97	\$2.07	.....	.....	.....

*Land rent, interest on investment, management, etc., cost should be added to this to get total cost.

The above sample costs are based on commercial or contract rates and average yields and were developed with the help of growers in the area. Costs will vary widely-- compute your own costs by filling in the last two columns.