

MILO

costs of production

suggestions on growing

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
FARM AND HOME ADVISORS' OFFICE
KERN COUNTY
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CAUTION - - - - - CAUTION - - - - - CAUTION

READ BEFORE FOLLOWING PEST CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS
IN THIS PUBLICATION.

The recommendations in this publication for the use of any of the following types of chemicals--insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, rodenticides, nematocides, plant growth regulators, dessiccants or defoliants--in crop production or protection may no longer be valid. Since this publication was originally issued, new information has been developed and new regulations have been put into effect in respect to the use of these chemicals. This information is now available in the current University of California pest control recommendations distributed by the farm advisors' offices in each county or the University Public Service Offices.

SUGGESTIONS ON GROWING MILO

By

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GENERAL:

MILO IS AN EXCELLENT CROP TO USE IN A DOUBLE CROPPING PROGRAM. IT IS OFTEN USED FOLLOWING WHEAT, BARLEY, OATS, EARLY POTATOES, OR ANY OTHER CROP THAT IS HARVESTED IN MID-SEASON. AS A FEED, MILO HAS A PROTEIN CONTENT SLIGHTLY LESS THAN No. 2 YELLOW CORN.

SOIL REQUIREMENTS:

MILO CAN BE GROWN ON ANY OF KERN COUNTY'S SOILS. IT IS MODERATELY TOLERANT TO ALKALI.

VARIETY:

MANY OF THE HYBRIDS ARE NOW BEING TESTED. THE MOST PROMISING HYBRIDS ARE THE MEDIUM MATURING VARIETIES SUCH AS RS 610, RS 608, AMAK R-10, NK 210 AND STECKLEY R103.

SEED TREATMENT:

SEED SHOULD BE TREATED WITH A SUITABLE DISINFECTANT. ONE OUNCE OF NEW IMPROVED CERESAN PER 100 LBS. OF SEED CAN BE RECOMMENDED.

PREPARATION OF SOIL AND PLANTING:

LIKE ALL OTHER CROPS, A FIRM, MOIST SEEDBED IS REQUIRED. PRE-IRRIGATION IS THE BEST PRACTICE

COSTS TO PRODUCE MILLO IN KERN COUNTY

BASED ON MAN LABOR AT \$1.00 AND \$1.30 PER HOUR; 30 H.P. WHEEL TRACTOR CASH COST PER HOUR \$1.00;
DEPRECIATION \$.41; INTEREST \$.19

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OPERATION	HOURS PER ACRE	CASH AND LABOR COST PER ACRE				SAMPLE COSTS	MY COSTS
		LABOR	FUEL AND REPAIRS- EQUIPMENT	MATERIALS AND OTHER COSTS			
CULTURAL:							
LAND PREPARATION	2.0	\$ 2.60	\$ 2.00			\$ 4.60	
PLANT & FERTILIZE (2 MEN)	.5	1.15	.50	SEED: 10 LBS. @ 5¢	\$.50		
				NITROGEN: 80 LBS. @ 12¢	9.60	11.75	
IRRIGATE: 1 PRE 3 CROP	6.0	6.00	2.50	WATER: 1.6 FT. @ \$6.00	9.60	18.10	
CULTIVATE: 2 TIMES	1.0	1.30	1.00			2.30	
TAXES					12.50	12.50	
MISCELLANEOUS OVERHEAD		3.30	2.50		3.50	9.30	
TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS		\$14.35	\$ 8.50		\$35.70	\$ 58.55	
HARVEST:							
DEFOLIATE				CONTRACT: \$6.00 + 10¢/CWT OVER 2,000 LBS.	\$ 9.00		
COMBINE				2 1/2 TONS @ \$2.00	5.00		
HAUL							
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS						\$ 14.00	
TOTAL CASH AND LABOR COSTS						\$ 72.55	
COSTS AT VARYING YIELDS							
<u>POUNDS PER ACRE</u>	<u>COST PER CWT</u>	<u>INVESTMENT</u>	<u>PER ACRE</u>	<u>ANNUAL COST</u>			
		LAND	\$800.00	<u>DEPRECIATION</u>	<u>INTEREST</u>		
		IRRIGATION FACILITIES	200.00	\$15.00	6.00		
		TRACTOR 4 1/2 HRS.		1.85	.86		
		EQUIPMENT	20.00	2.00	.60		
3,000	\$4.76	TOTAL		\$18.85	\$55.46	\$ 74.31	
4,000	3.62						
5,000	2.94						
6,000	2.48						
		TOTAL COST PER ACRE				\$146.86	
		COST PER CWT @ 5,000 LBS. YIELD				2.94	

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HOWEVER, PLANTING DRY, THEN IRRIGATING UP, IS SOMETIMES DONE SUCCESSFULLY. MILO MAY BE BROADCAST, DRILLED OR SEEDING IN ROW.

PLANTING RATE:

HYBRIDS REQUIRE ABOUT 10 TO 12 LBS. OF SEED PER ACRE. ALWAYS PLANT SEED OF KNOWN QUALITY.

PLANTING TIME:

MILO MAY BE SEEDING FROM MAY 1 TO JUNE 15. WHEN SEEDING BEFORE OTHER FIELDS IN THE COMMUNITY, WHICH WOULD BE FIRST TO HEAD, BIRDS ARE LIKELY TO CONCENTRATE, RESULTING IN A GREAT LOSS OF GRAIN. A MAJORITY OF THE FIELDS IN THE COUNTY ARE PLANTED ABOUT JUNE 15.

PLANTING DEPTH:

THE PLANTING DEPTH NEED NOT EXCEED 2 1/2 INCHES.

FERTILIZATION:

WHEN FOLLOWING POTATOES, WHERE THERE IS USUALLY A LARGE AMOUNT OF CARRYOVER, THE APPLICATION OF NITROGEN MAY NOT BE NECESSARY. IN ANY INSTANCE, PROBABLY 80 LBS. OF NITROGEN IS ALL THAT WILL BE REQUIRED. IF NITROGEN IS TO BE APPLIED, APPLICATION SHOULD BE MADE AT SEEDING TIME, IF POSSIBLE.

IRRIGATION:

TIMING THE IRRIGATIONS ON MILO IS VERY IMPORTANT. SINCE MILO IS USUALLY PLANTED IN HOT WEATHER, A PRE-IRRIGATION IS NECESSARY. THEN, ON GOOD PERMEABLE SOIL, THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE CAN BE USED FOR MAXIMUM YIELDS: IF WATER IS AVAILABLE FOR ONLY ONE IRRIGATION, MAKE SURE THIS IS APPLIED WHEN THE CROP IS IN THE "BOOT STAGE". IF WATER IS AVAILABLE FOR TWO IRRIGATIONS, APPLY IN THE "BOOT STAGE" AND TWO WEEKS AFTER HEADING. IF THREE IRRIGATIONS ARE POSSIBLE, APPLY IN THE TILLER STAGE, THE BOOT STAGE AND TWO WEEKS AFTER HEADING.

ON SOILS THAT ARE TIGHT OR VERY SANDY, IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO WATER AS FREQUENTLY AS EVERY 7 TO 10 DAYS DURING THE HEAT OF THE SUMMER UNTIL THE SEED IN THE CENTRAL OR MAIN STEMS ARE IN THE SOFT DOUGH STAGE.

CULTIVATION:

SINCE SOIL WILL USUALLY DRY OUT AS DEEPLY AS IT IS TILLED, CULTIVATION SHOULD BE DONE ONLY TO CONTROL WEEDS.

HARVESTING:

HARVESTING IS DONE BY COMBINE. ANY OF THE GRAIN HARVESTERS ARE GOOD.

YIELD:

FROM 4,000 TO 7,000 LBS. PER ACRE CAN BE EXPECTED. YIELDS AS HIGH AS 9,000 LBS. HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.