

flax  
sample costs  
and  
production



Agricultural Extension Service  
Univeristy of California  
Imperial County  
Court House, El Centro

Cost Data Sheet No. 14  
UC Cooperative Extension

FLAX--SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

(Based on custom rates and a yield of 35 bushels per acre)

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS	
	Per Acre	Per Bushel
<b>LAND PREPARATION AND LABOR</b>		
Disc 2x	\$ 4.00	
Border 1x	1.00	
Float 2x	3.50	
Fertilize 1x (apply dry, or inject)	2.00	
Irrigate 12x (1 or 2x preplant ) @ 1.00	12.00	
Mulch 1x	3.00	
Plant	3.00	
<b>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION &amp; LABOR</b>	<b>\$ 28.50</b>	<b>\$ .81</b>
<b>MATERIALS</b>		
Irrigation water (6 ac. ft. @ \$2.00)	12.00	
Fertilizer (300 lbs. 16-20-0 preplant)	12.00	
(150 lbs. N as NH <sub>3</sub> post-plant @ 6¢)	8.00	
Seed (50 lbs. @ 12¢)	6.00	
<b>TOTAL MATERIALS</b>	<b>\$ 38.00</b>	<b>\$ 1.09</b>
<b>HARVESTING AND SHIPPING</b>		
Combine (\$8.00 per A. @ 20¢ per bu over 25 bu)	10.00	
Local haul (\$2.00 per T.)	2.00	
Loading and analysis @ \$1.50 per T.	1.50	
R. R. freight to consumer @ \$3.80 per T.	3.80	
<b>TOTAL HARVESTING &amp; SHIPPING</b>	<b>\$ 17.30</b>	<b>\$ .49</b>
<b>CASH OVERHEAD (10% of above)</b>	<b>8.38</b>	<b>.24</b>
<b>LAND RENT</b>	<b>30.00</b>	<b>.86</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL COSTS (copy)</b>	<b>\$122.18</b>	<b>\$ 3.49</b>

## SOIL REQUIREMENT

Soils must be permeable to water, well, drained, and not too saline (electrical conductivity lower than 6). Soil texture is less critical than soil management.

## LAND PREPARATION

Land should be level enough to permit uniform application of water

Mulch when dry enough with spring-tooth and spike-tooth harrows, or mulching disc and spike-tooth harrow. Make mulch fine to destroy emerged weeds, germinating weed seeds, and to prevent drying out of firm soil below. Depth of mulch should not exceed 2 to 3 inches of firmed soil.

## PLANTING

Optimum planting dates range from November 15 to December 15. Fifty pounds of seed per acre are adequate if properly planted. Seed should be drilled into contact with firm, wet soil beneath the mulch. Depths greater than 3 inches decrease possibility of getting good stands.

## VARIETIES

Imperial is the best variety on wilt-free soil. New River is best on soils infested with wilt. Dunes, a wilt resistant variety was released for planting in 1964.

One or two irrigations are necessary ahead of mulching to insure proper seed bed moisture. Ten or more irrigations after emergence have proven most profitable. Flax should never be allowed to suffer from lack of water or too much water.

### FERTILIZERS

All phosphate, if any is needed, should be applied ahead of planting. Forty to eighty pounds of  $P_2O_5$  per acre are adequate.

Apply  $1/3$  to  $1/2$  of N pre-plant and remainder in 2 applications--one at first or second post-emergence irrigation and the other after flax blooms but before April 15th.

### WEED CONTROL

Crop rotation and clean tillage are best for weed control. Broadleaved weeds can be controlled with 2,4-D. Grassy weeds can be controlled with IPC. See Fact Sheet No. 13 for recommendations.

### HARVESTING

Direct combining of standing flax is practiced. Where weeds are a problem, windrowing or applying a crop dessicant by airplane to dry weeds, make combining possible.

Harvesting usually takes place in June and July.

The following information is for your information only. It is not intended to be used as a guide for the selection of a cooperative. The information is for your information only.

### 1. Name of the cooperative

The name of the cooperative is [illegible]. It is a [illegible] cooperative. It is located in [illegible].

The cooperative is a [illegible] cooperative. It is a [illegible] cooperative. It is a [illegible] cooperative.

### 2. Description of the cooperative

The cooperative is a [illegible] cooperative. It is a [illegible] cooperative. It is a [illegible] cooperative. It is a [illegible] cooperative.

### 3. Contact information

The contact information is [illegible]. It is [illegible]. It is [illegible]. It is [illegible].

Prepared by  
Imperial County  
Agricultural Extension Service  
Staff  
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