

Rec April 1955

COTTON PRODUCTION
RIVERSIDE COUNTY DESERT VALLEYS

VARIETIES: Acala 4-42 is recommended. It has out-produced other varieties in local tests. It has market demand. It begins fruiting earlier than most other varieties, therefore irrigations should be started sooner than with other varieties.

PLANTING DATES: March 15 to May 15 is preferred. May be planted from March 1 to June 15.

PLANTING: Pre-irrigation and planting into moisture is best in soils which hold their moisture well. Light soils which dry out quickly may be planted dry and irrigated up. Seed should be placed from 1½" to 2½" in depth depending on soil conditions. Twenty-five to thirty pounds of seed per acre is normally used, however, 15 pounds is sufficient. Rows may be spaced 36 inches to 42 inches apart. Spacing in row is from 2" to 10".

FERTILIZERS: Recommendations must be based on crop history and soil type. In general, 80-150 pounds of actual nitrogen and 60-80 pounds of phosphate is adequate. Nitrogen must be available early. Also with our long growing season the fertilizer program should be planned to prevent cotton from running out of nitrogen in the late summer. A general practice is to apply all phosphate if needed, at planting time, and about 1/3 of the nitrogen. The remainder of the nitrogen is then applied in 1 to 3 applications depending on soil type, from the time the cotton is about a foot high until the latter part of the summer. Applications later than September 1st normally should not be made. Fertilizers may be applied by side dressing, dry materials, injection of liquid and gas, and applications in the water of gas, liquid, or dry materials.

IRRIGATION: Wet soil profile to depth of six feet previous to planting. Maintain high moisture content for vigorous seedling growth. Adequate amounts of available moisture at all times is essential for top yields. Do not allow plants to wilt at any time. Irrigation is normally continued into September especially if fertility is high.

INSECT CONTROL: Essential for good yields. Thrips, aphids, red spider, lygus, stink bugs, bollworm, and white fly are common insects and should be controlled. For suggestions for cotton insect control see your local farm advisor or write Room 7, Post Office Building, Riverside.

WEED CONTROL: Weeds are controlled by hand hoeing and cultivation. Cultivations should be shallow to prevent root pruning. Small weeds can be controlled easier than large weeds. Cotton can be cultivated up to 4 feet high with shielded equipment.

DEFOLIATION: Helps in increasing efficiency of mechanical pickers and assists in obtaining cleaner seed cotton.

ESTIMATING YIELDS: Average of 7 mature bolls per linear foot of row is equivalent to one bale per acre on 38 inch row spacing. Counts should be taken at several places in the field.

More detailed information can be obtained by contacting your farm advisor.

AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY CALIFORNIA PRODUCERS - CENTS PER POUND:

1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
28.17	41.25	39.25	32.21	31.17	33.32	35.60

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WHAT DOES IT COST TO GROW COTTON

Based on Yield of $1\frac{1}{2}$ Bales Per Acre - 2083 pounds of Seed Cotton

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS		YOUR COSTS	
	Acre	Cwt. Lint	Acre	Cwt. Lint
<u>Preparation & Plant</u>				
Subsoil or plow 1x	\$ 6.00			
Disc 2x	4.00			
Float 2x	2.00			
Listing 1x	2.00			
Pre-irrigate40			
Light disc or harrow 1x.	1.50			
Plant	2.00			
PREPARATION AND PLANT TOTAL.	\$ 17.90	\$ 2.39		
<u>Cultural Labor</u>				
Fertilize 1x	\$ 1.00			
Cultivate 3x	3.00			
Chopping and 1 weeding	10.00			
1 additional weeding	5.00			
Irrigate 10x (average)	4.00			
Cleaning ditches	1.00			
Dust or spray 6x (airplane rates).	6.00			
CULTURAL TOTAL	\$ 30.00	\$ 4.16		
<u>Materials</u>				
Irrigation water $4\frac{1}{2}$ ' average	\$ 12.00			
Seed - 25% acid delint @ 11.5¢	2.90			
Fertilizer - 80% N, 65% P ₂ O ₅	18.50			
Insecticides	18.00			
Miscellaneous.	1.00			
MATERIALS TOTAL	\$ 52.40	\$ 6.98		
<u>Harvest</u>				
Hand picking* 2.5¢ per 100	\$ 52.07			
Weighing .25¢ per 100.	5.20			
Hauling.	2.00			
Ginning @ 65¢ per 100.	13.50			
HARVEST TOTAL.	\$ 72.77	\$ 9.70		
<u>Cash Overhead</u>				
General overhaed 5% above.	\$ 9.30			
Minor repairs.	1.00			
Taxes	6.00			
Compensation insurance	1.50			
CASH OVERHEAD TOTAL.	\$ 17.80	\$ 2.37		
TOTAL CASH COST.	\$ 190.87	\$ 25.45		
Land rent or charge.	\$ 40.00	\$ 5.34		
Management - estimate your own	-	-		
TOTAL ALL COSTS.	\$ 230.87	\$ 32.57		
Less income from seed, 1208 lb @ 3.7¢	\$ 44.70	\$ 5.96		
NET COST OF LINT	\$ 186.17	\$ 24.82		

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.

*For contract machine picking figure 2¢ per pound seed cotton.

$$\text{PROFITS} = \text{YIELD} \times \text{PRICE} - \text{COST}$$