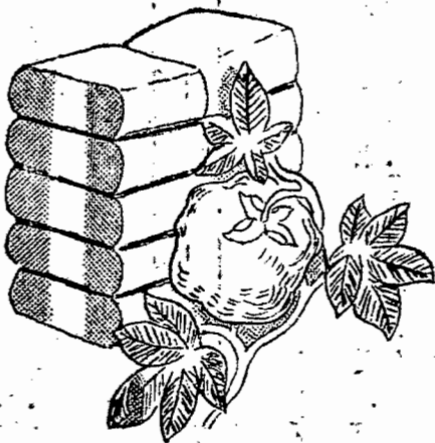


cotton

sample costs
and
production



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

Cost Data Sheet No. 4
UC Cooperative Extension

COTTON - SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Hand labor at \$1.90 per hour (\$1.50 plus Social Security, unemployment, and fringe benefits).

Yield - 3.00 bales per acre.

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
LAND PREPARATION						
Plow or subsoil	8.00					8.00
Disc 2x	2.00					4.00
Fertilize	1.00	100# N(NH ₃)	6.00			7.00
Float	1.00					1.00
List	3.00					3.00
Irrigate		water .5 ac.ft.	1.15	.5	1.00	2.15
Cultivate	3.00					3.00
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						28.15

GROWING PERIOD						
Plant and Incorporate	10.00	seed 20# @ .21	4.20			
		herbicide	5.25			
		fungicide	2.00			21.45
Cultivate 4x	3.00					12.00
Fertilize 3x	3.00	100# N(NH ₃)x3	18.00			27.00
Hoe & Weed				5.2	10.00	10.00
Insect Control 16x	1.50	insecticide	36.00			60.00
Lay by Herbicide	3.50	herbicide	5.00			8.50
Irrigate 14x		water 7 ac.ft.	16.10	7.4	14.00	30.10
Defoliate	2.00	ft. 10 gal.	7.50			9.50
TOTAL GROWING PERIOD						178.55

HARVEST COSTS						
Machine picking	21.00 per bale					63.00
Hauling	1.00/bale					3.00
Ginning	1.25/cwt of seed cotton					56.25
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS						122.25
Rent						100.00
Cash overhead 15% of above						60.60
TOTAL COSTS						\$489.55

Cost per pound = 32.64¢

GENERAL INFORMATION

The production per acre for the county the last five years has ranged from 1224 pounds per acre to 1836 pounds lint acre. Prices ranged from \$.275 to \$.380 per pound lint. Yield is partially affected by the amount of skip row cotton planted each year in the county.

LAND PREPARATION

Cotton usually is grown on raised beds 38 to 42 inches apart. The crop is generally planted in a semi-mulch and irrigated up.

Cotton can be grown on all soil types in Imperial County. Sloping beds will usually give better stands where salinity is a problem.

PLANTING DATES AND RATES

Cotton can be planted from March through April. Yields decrease when cotton is planted later than April 20th. A soil temperature of at least 60°F at a depth of 8 inches is desirable. Spacings within the row of 3 to 12 inches result in approximately the same yields.

VARIETIES

Delta Pine 16, Stoneville 508, and Acala Imperial have been successfully grown.

FERTILIZATION

About 250-300 pounds of nitrogen per acre will produce a good crop on solid planted cotton. About 400 pounds of nitrogen per acre are required for skip row cotton. The applications should be made before planting, at thinning, and in June and July. Although tests have shown no yield increases due to phosphate application, it is a common practice in some areas.

IRRIGATION

Do not allow the plants to remain wilted for extended periods of time. Acala types require less frequent irrigation.

WEED CONTROL

Several herbicides are now in common use both as preemergence and lay be treatments. Consult Weed Control Recommendations - Imperial County.

INSECT CONTROL

The pink bollworm is now widespread and poses a serious threat to cotton production. The presence of this new insect pest will result in increased cost for pest control since multiple applications are necessary to keep it in check. The insecticide costs included in this circular could be higher depending upon the pink bollworm populations and the presence of other pests.

Many pests attack cotton in Imperial County. For the latest control recommendations, consult the Pest Control Recommendations for Imperial County Field Crops. Copies are available at your Farm Advisor's Office.

DISEASE CONTROL

Seedling diseases can reduce cotton stands to the point where replanting may be necessary. The seedling disease problem frequently is more severe where cotton follows sugar beets or alfalfa.

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