

Agricultural Briefs

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

1977 - SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE GRAIN SORGHUM AND CULTURAL PRACTICES

SOIL REQUIREMENTS: The highly productive organic and mineral soils as well as the deeper upland soils.

PLANTING DATES: Main season - May 10 to June 15; Double crop - June 15 to July 15. Soil temperature at planting depth should be over 65° F.

HARVEST DATES: September 15 to December 15.

VARIETIES: Pioneer, Northrup King, DeKalb, Germains.

SEEDING RATE: Full season - 15-18 lbs/ac; small sized, early maturing varieties for late planting 18-25 lbs/ac.

FERTILIZER REQUIREMENT: Organic soil - 13-20 lbs P/ac. (30-45 lbs P₂O₅). Mineral soil - starter fertilizer with N, P and K if soil is very P deficient; 100-150 lbs. N pre-fertilized plus 13-20 lbs P. (30-45 lbs P₂O₅)

IRRIGATION: 1 1/2 to 2 acre feet of water. On organic soil sub-irrigate. On mineral soil sprinkle, flood, or furrow irrigate, three to five irrigations needed.

WEED CONTROL: Cultivation two to four times. 2,4D may be used for broadleaved weed control. Atrazine + oil is recommended for early post-emergence for both watergrass and broadleaved weeds.

INSECT CONTROL: Greenbug can be a severe problem, especially when sorghum is young. Can be controlled with Systox® or Di-Syston®. Control not as essential as plants head out.

DISEASE CONTROL: Head smut - resistant varieties. Root rot and lodging - avoid moisture stress, especially in salt and alkali areas, use adapted varieties.

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS, Division of Agricultural Sciences,
University of California, U.S. Department of Agriculture and County of Sacramento cooperating

OPERATION	HOURS/ ACRE	LABOR	FUEL AND REPAIRS	MATERIALS KIND AND QUANTITY	TOTAL COST/ACRE MINERAL SOIL	PEAT SOIL
<u>CULTURAL</u>						
Chop Wheat Stubble	0.2	0.70	1.45		\$ 2.15	\$ 2.15
Plow	0.4	1.40	1.89		3.29	3.29
Disc 2x	0.5	1.75	2.44		4.19	4.19
Landplane 2x	0.66	2.32	3.48		5.80	5.80
Rip 2x	1.32	4.62	6.00		10.62	10.62
Spring tooth-float ringroll	0.1	0.35	1.22		1.57	1.57
Pre-fertilize and list beds	0.25	0.87	1.55	\$2 applic. 150 lb/ac N @ 25¢/lb.	41.92	--
Plant-Fertilize (starter) 2 men	0.4	2.80	1.89	12 lbs seed/ac @ 50¢ per lb = \$6. 30 gal 4-10-10 @ \$20	30.69	30.69
Cultivate 2x	0.4	1.40	2.60		4.00	4.00
Irrigate 5x (mineral) 3x (peat)	7.5 1.0	26.25 3.50	--	2.5 ac/ft. @ \$8=\$20 Spud ditches \$2.50/ac	46.25	2.50
Weed control				Atrazine + oil 1.0 lb/ ac + 1 gal/ac=\$3.77 + 0.80=\$4.57 + \$3 applic.	7.57	7.57
Insecticide (Green- bug - aphid control)				Dysyston or Systox 1 pt per acre + air applic. \$5 Dyston + \$3	8.00	8.00
Opening ditches					2.00	--
Drain maintenance					2.00	2.00
Making spud ditches					--	2.50
TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS					\$ 170.05	\$ 84.88
<u>HARVEST</u>						
Harvest - own harvester 25 acres/day	0.4	2.00	2.00		4.00	4.00
<u>CASH OVERHEAD</u>						
Taxes on equip.	\$343 x 0.93 = \$318.99 x 25% = \$79.24 x 0.13 = \$10.36				10.36	10.36
Misc office					1.00	1.00
Rent 1/4 gross	3 tons/ac x \$80/ton = \$240 x 25%				60.00	60.00
Workman's comp.					1.00	1.00
Soc. Sec.					1.00	1.00
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD					\$ 73.36	\$73.36
TOTAL CASH COST					\$247.41	\$62.24
Management 5% of Gross					\$12.00	\$12.00
<u>INVESTMENT</u>						
Buildings	Per Acre - Depreciation		Interest			
Equipment (8-10 yr life) 1976 costs	\$ 1.53 36.78 38.31		\$ 1.84 10.15 11.99	(8%) 50% balance on equipment.	50.30	50.30
TOTAL COST/ACRE					\$ 297.71	\$224.54
TOTAL COST/TON			2.5 ton/acre	\$ 98.96	\$ 89.81	
			3.0 ton/acre	99.23	74.84	
			3.5 ton/acre	85.06	64.15	