

SUGAR BEETS - 1950

WHAT DOES IT COST YOU TO GROW BEETS?
(Based on 18 ton yield per acre)

| ITEMS | SAMPLE COSTS | | YOUR COSTS | |
|---|---|---------|------------|---------|
| | Per Acre | Per Ton | Per Acre | Per Ton |
| LAND PREPARATION - LABOR AND FIELD POWER Subsoil, disc - 3x, float, border, pre-irrigate, knock out borders, land plane, list | 20.00 | 1.11 | | |
| CULTURAL LABOR & FIELD POWER Shape and plant beds Fertilize Thin - 1x Hoe - 2x Cultivation - 4x Irrigation - 10x Ditch & irrig. prep. Miscellaneous | 2.27 1.50 15.00 15.00 5.00 10.90 2.00 4.00 | | | |
| TOTAL CULTURAL | 55.65 | 3.09 | | |
| MATERIALS Irrigation water - 3.5' Seed - 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ # Fertilizer - 130 N - 125 P ₂ O ₅ Miscellaneous | 5.50 1.60 35.00 2.00 | | | |
| TOTAL MATERIALS | 44.10 | 2.45 | | |
| HARVESTING Plowing out Top and load Hauling | 2.00 31.50 13.50 | | | |
| TOTAL HARVEST | 47.00 | 2.61 | | |
| CASH OVERHEAD General expense Taxes Insurance | 8.18 2.00 1.00 | | | |
| TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD | 11.18 | .62 | | |
| DEPRECIATION | 2.00 | .11 | | |
| LAND RENT | 40.00 | 2.22 | | |
| TOTAL ALL COSTS | 219.93 | 12.21 | | |

The above sample costs are based on enterprise efficiency studies in Imperial County. Estimate your own costs by filling in the last two columns based on yields that you could reasonably expect and costs of operations and materials that would be required on your land.

SUGAR BEETS

ACREAGE: Sugar beets were grown ~~in 1951~~ on 34,099 acres. The acreage during recent years has been in the neighborhood of 30,000 acres.

YIELDS: The average yield is about 17 to 18 tons. Yields above 25 tons are obtained by a few growers each year. The sugar percentage averages around 17% but may go to 19 and 20% for some fields.

VARIETIES: U.S. 56, U.S. 15, and U.S. 22 have been planted in past years. The U.S. 22 is favored for spring plantings and U.S. 56 for fall plantings. Newer varieties are under continual test.

SOILS: Beets are grown on a wide variety of soil types. As with many other crops, the very heavy and very light soils are less adapted to sugar beets. Successful production is possible but fertility and irrigation requirements make close supervision essential.

PLANTING DATES: Normal planting dates are from Sept. 21 to Nov. 15. Early spring beets have been successful although yields are not as high. July planted beets have also been grown experimentally.

LAND PREPARATION: See reverse side. The expected gross returns are high and cultural practices are designed to give the crop as much chance as possible. Some of these practices might be eliminated depending upon local conditions.

IRRIGATION: Irrigation is by furrows. The crop is "subbed up" initially and may require "watering back" within 4 or 5 days to assure a stand. Do not allow the crop to wilt or suffer for moisture. From 12 to 20 irrigations are used. About 3 weeks will be required following the final irrigation before the beets are ready for harvest.

FERTILIZERS: Nitrogen in relatively large amounts is required for maximum yields. From 120 to 160 lbs. of actual nitrogen may be required depending upon type of winter growing period experienced. 30 to 50 lbs. are recommended at planting, 60 to 90 lbs. soon after thinning, and the remaining 30-40 lbs. to be applied early in the spring growing period.

No response to phosphate has been obtained in recent replicated tests. If phosphate is used, 80 to 120 lbs. of actual phosphate should be adequate and should be applied at or ahead of planting.

HARVESTING: Harvesting is almost completely mechanized. Arrangements are made with a commercial harvester. A few fields still employ hand toppers. Dates of harvest and delivery of beets are arranged with the sugar company with whom you have your contract.

PESTS AND DISEASES: Insect pests may include crickets, grasshoppers and worms at emergence and seedling stage; aphids and worms during main period of growth. Each field presents specific problems and usually recommendations cannot be made except for a specific field. Consult with your farm advisor or agricultural commissioner.