

WHAT DOES IT COST YOU TO GROW GRAIN SORGHUM  
DESERT VALLEYS, RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Based on Yield of 2000# (Palo Verde)\*

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS		YOUR COSTS	
	Per Acre	Per Cwt.	Per Acre	Per Cwt.
<u>Preparation and Planting</u>				
Chisel (for hard land) . . . . .	.....		.....	.....
Disc 1x . . . . .	\$ 2.00		.....	.....
Border 1x . . . . .	.50		.....	.....
Pre-irrigate. . . . .	.40		.....	.....
Disc 1x . . . . .	2.00		.....	.....
Harrow 1x . . . . .	.75		.....	.....
Plant (grain drill) . . . . .	2.00		.....	.....
<b>PREPARATION AND PLANT TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>\$ 7.65</b>	<b>\$ .38</b>	.....	.....
<u>Cultural Labor</u>				
Irrigate 5x . . . . .	\$ 2.00		.....	.....
Cultivation - none . . . . .	-		.....	.....
<b>CULTURAL TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>\$ 2.00</b>	<b>\$ .10</b>	.....	.....
<u>Materials</u>				
Irrigation water - 1/2 year . . . . .	\$ 6.00		.....	.....
Seed - 5# @ 10¢ . . . . .	.50		.....	.....
<b>MATERIALS TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>\$ 6.50</b>	<b>\$ .32</b>	.....	.....
<u>Harvest</u>				
Combine (bulk) . . . . .	\$ 7.50		.....	.....
Haul \$2.00 per ton. . . . .	2.00		.....	.....
<b>HARVEST TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>\$ 9.50</b>	<b>\$ .48</b>	.....	.....
<u>Cash Overhead</u>				
General expense 5% of above . . . . .	\$ 1.28		.....	.....
Taxes - 1/2 year . . . . .	2.00		.....	.....
Insurance . . . . .	.50		.....	.....
Miscellaneous . . . . .	2.00		.....	.....
<b>CASH OVERHEAD TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>\$ 5.78</b>	<b>\$ .29</b>	.....	.....
<b><u>TOTAL CASH COSTS</u></b> . . . . .	<b>\$ 21.43</b>	<b>\$1.57</b>	.....	.....
<u>Other Costs To Be Added</u>				
Land rent or interest - 1/2 year. . . . .	\$ 20.00	\$1.00	.....	.....
Management (estimate your own). . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....

\*Following barley.

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.

PROFITS = YIELD x PRICE - COSTS

GROWING MILO AND OTHER GRAIN SORGHUMS  
IN THE DESERT VALLEYS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY.

VARIETIES:

For Grain -

Double Dwarf 38 has been the top yielder. Heads are produced on short stalks and normally cannot be harvested until frost.

Martin's Combine - also is commonly grown and may be harvested when mature since heads are produced on long stalk.

Imperial Kaffir - has shown up well on experimental plantings and could well be one of our best varieties in the future.

For Ensilage

Hogari - is the most popular. It is early maturing and the large percentage of grain makes it the highest T.D.N. producer per acre.

Atlas Sorgho, Honey Drip, Black Amber produce high yields of green matter, have high sugar content and are late maturing. Lodging occurs in these varieties.

Generally considered to make poor quality silage.

Rex Sorgho is a recent development. It is a high yielding, early maturing, tall growing variety and stand up well. Well adapted to mix with Hogari, maturing at the same time.

SOILS: Milo can be grown on most soils in Riverside County. It is reasonably tolerant of alkali.

TIME OF PLANTING: Milo may be planted from the time soil temperatures reach about 65° in the spring up until July 15 - 20. Early plantings are usually severely attacked by blackbirds. There are some indications that Imperial Kaffir has a resistance to bird damage.

PREPARATION OF SOIL AND PLANTING: Milo should be planted in a firm moist seedbed that has been mulched. Planting dry and irrigating up is not recommended because of the weed problem. Milo may be broadcast, drilled solid, or drilled in rows 10-40 inches apart. The best yields have been obtained by drilling in rows of 18-40 inches with 6-10 pounds of seed per acre. Certified seed should always be used.

IRRIGATION: Milo should never suffer for lack of water. The ground should be continuously moist at six inches when the heads are forming and filling. However, good drainage is essential. At least five irrigations are usually necessary. Irrigate until grain is in stiff dough stage.

FERTILIZER: Responses to nitrogen may be slow but experience has shown that 80-100 pounds actual nitrogen will pay. All fertilizers should go on early.

HARVESTING: Harvesting is by direct combine after crop is mature and leaves are dried sufficiently for combining. For ensilage grain should be in hard dough stage.

PESTS: Treatment for insects usually is not necessary. Crickets, grasshoppers and Flea beetles may bother at emergence. Aphids, stink bugs and army worms may bother later. Blackbirds are a serious pest. Lesser corn borer may reduce late seeded stands. Flood irrigation is the only known control. Consult your farm advisor or Agricultural Commissioner for other control measures if needed.

AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY CALIFORNIA PRODUCERS FOR GRAIN SORGHUMS PER CWT:

1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
2.55	2.64	3.30	3.36	2.77	2.66	2.32

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