

Field Crops
Barley



cereal crops

sample costs
and
production



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

Cost Data Sheet No. 16

UC Cooperative Extension

CEREAL CROPS--SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

(Based on custom rates and $\frac{1}{4}$ tons per yield)

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS	
	Per Acre	Per Cwt.
LAND PREPARATION AND LABOR		
Disc 2x	\$ 4.00	
Border	1.00	
Float 2x or float 1x and float-corrugate 1x	3.50	
Plant	3.00	
Irrigate 6x	6.00	
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION & LABOR	\$ 17.50	\$.70
MATERIALS		
Water (3 acre ft. @ \$2 per acre ft.)	6.00	
Fertilizer (100 lbs. of N as NH ₃ @ .06/lb)	6.00	
Seed 1/ (90 lbs. barley @ \$4.50/cwt.)	4.05	
TOTAL MATERIALS	\$ 16.05	\$.64
TOTAL PRE-HARVEST COSTS	\$ 33.55	\$ 1.34
HARVESTING		
Combine (\$8.00 per acre plus 10¢ per cwt. over 1 ton)	9.00	
Haul (\$2.00 per ton)	3.00	
TOTAL HARVESTING	\$ 12.00	\$.48
CASH OVERHEAD (10% of above costs)	4.56	.18
LAND RENT	25.00	1.00
TOTAL ALL COSTS	\$ 75.11	\$ 3.74

1/ Seed costs of oats and wheat average \$2 per cwt. more than for barley.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The foregoing sample costs are based on average production practices where grain follows grain or a short season summer crop. If the cereal crop follows cotton or early lettuce, the costs would be considerably less. For example, sub soiling and mulching could be eliminated, and fewer irrigations and less fertilizer would be required.

As yields increase, costs per cwt. decrease; (if costs remain constant.)

LAND PREPARATION

Where grains are to be planted in the mulch, the practice is disc, fertilize, disc, and float. Next apply the pre-mulch irrigation and when dry enough, mulch and plant.

PLANTING DATES, RATES, AND DEPTH

Optimum planting date for yields of grain is between November 25th and December 15th. Rates of seeding average 90 pounds per acre.

Seed should not be planted deeper than 3 to 4 inches if planted in the mulch. If the crop is to be irrigated up, shallow planting is best.

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VARIETIES
Recommended varieties of barley are California Mariout, Blanco Mariout, Indio, Curt, and Palestine. Oats are equal in yield performance. Kanota is recommended only for pasture or coarse hay.

Ramona 50 is the only wheat variety which yields consistently well.

FERTILIZATION

Imperial Valley soils usually contain sufficient phosphates for grain production. Cereals generally need added nitrogen at rates of 100 to 120 pounds per acre, depending on the previous crop. All nitrogen should be applied by the time stem elongation takes place. All sources of nitrogen are about equal if properly placed.

IRRIGATION

Pre-mulch irrigations should be heavy. subsequent irrigations need be only sufficient to maintain good growth.

In late planted cereals to be irrigated up, the first irrigation should be of short duration. Follow-up irrigation should not be made until after grain has emerged.

PESTS

Weed and insect pests occasionally

reduce cereal crop yields. Costs for their control have not been included because they are not widespread practices. Chemical weed control costs \$3.50 per acre and one application of insecticides for aphid control costs from \$2.50 to \$3.00.

HARVESTING

Harvesting is by direct combine, and grain is dumped bulk into trucks which haul to the elevators. Combining usually begins in April and extends into June.

YIELDS

Seed yields for small grains average about $\frac{1}{4}$ tons per acre. Yields over 3 tons of barley have been reported but are uncommon.

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Imperial County
Agricultural Extension Service
Staff

Revised January 1965

Co-operative Extension work in
Agriculture and Home Economics
College of Agriculture, University
of California, and United States
Department of Agriculture co-operat-
ing. Distributed in furtherance of
the Acts of Congress of May 8, and
June 30, 1914. George B. Alcorn,
Director, California Agricultural
Extension Service.

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