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University of California
Agricultural Extension Service
Imperial County
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FLAX - 1956

WHAT DOES IT COST YOU TO GROW FLAX?
(Based on yield of 35 bushels per acre)

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS		YOUR COSTS	
	Per A.	Per Bu.	Per A.	Per Bu.
LAND PREPARATION--LABOR & FIELD POWER				
Disc	1.50			
Border	.75			
Disc	1.50			
Float	1.75			
Fertilize	2.00			
Irrigate	1.00			
Mulch	2.00			
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION	10.50	.30		
CULTURAL LABOR & FIELD POWER				
Planting across borders	2.00			
Fertilizing	2.00			
Irrigating - 7x	4.20			
Weed control (2,4-D)	3.25			
Border & ditch work	2.00			
Miscellaneous	2.00			
TOTAL CULTURAL LABOR	15.45	.44		
MATERIALS				
Irrigation water - 2.5'	5.00			
Seed - 50 lbs.	5.00			
Fertilizer, 120 N - 80 P ₂ O ₅	26.00			
TOTAL MATERIALS	36.00	1.03		
HARVESTING COSTS				
Combine bulk - \$7.00 per acre + 20¢ per bushel over 25 bushels	9.00			
Haul	2.00			
Shipping costs to Los Angeles	5.10			
TOTAL HARVEST	16.10	.46		
CASH OVERHEAD				
General expense (5% of above)	3.90			
Taxes	2.00			
Repairs	1.00			
Insurance	.40			
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD	7.30	.21		
Depreciation	2.50	.07		
Land rent	30.00	.86		
TOTAL COSTS	117.85	3.37		
Less returns for straw	4.00	.11		
TOTAL ALL COSTS	113.85	3.26		

The above sample costs of producing flax in Imperial Valley are based on cost studies in previous years.

Estimate your own costs in the last two columns based on yields you could reasonably expect and the cost of operations and material that would be required on your land.

SEE REVERSE SIDE

FLAX PRODUCTION

YIELDS: Yields have gradually come up to the present 30 to 35 bushels per acre. A record of over 78 bushels has been produced. Yields of 40 to 50 bushels or more are to be expected from the better fields.

<u>ACREAGE:</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Sale Price (FOB Crusher)</u>
	1955	50,591	\$3.525 per bushel (56 lbs.)
	1954	38,057	3.51 " "
	1953	18,531	4.025 " "
	1952	35,945	4.475 " "
	1951	60,032	5.33 " "

VARIETIES: The two varieties generally grown are Imperial and Punjab 47. The Imperial is believed to have better heat tolerance and is used for late season plantings. Both varieties are certified by the California Crop Improvement Association. The wilt resistant variety, Punjab 53 has been planted on wilt ground with good success.

PLANTING DATA: Plantings are generally made from November 15 to December 15. Plantings as late as February 15 have been made with definite sacrifice in yield. Plant from 40 to 50 pounds of seed per acre with grain drill. Plant no deeper than is necessary to insure sufficient moisture for germination but be sure the seed is in moisture.

LAND PREPARATION: The steps generally followed in preparing the land for crop are listed on the reverse side. Growers prefer to plant into a moist seed bed in order to reduce weed competition.

IRRIGATION: Flax is flood irrigated between borders. Borders are as close as necessary to insure complete water coverage of the ground between borders and to allow most efficient use of equipment. One or two irrigations will be required before planting to insure moisture for mulching and planting. From 5 to 7 irrigations should be sufficient for the crop. Be sure of an adequate amount of moisture, especially during bloom and until seed is mature.

FERTILIZERS: Nitrogen is essential and must be applied in substantial amounts if high yields are to be obtained. Phosphate fertilization does not always result in increased yields. From 60 to 120 pounds or more of actual nitrogen will give good yields. This is applied in one or two applications early in the season. If you use phosphate, from 60 to 100 pounds should be adequate and should be applied at or ahead of planting. For those on short budgets, contract for adequate nitrogen first and then if the budget allows get your phosphate.

HARVESTING: Harvesting is done by direct combine of standing flax. Weedy fields are best harvested from windrow or may be harvested standing after chemical treatment to kill weeds.

WEED CONTROL: A good crop rotation is the best method of control of weeds. Several chemicals have been used and new ones are being developed. The 2,4-D amine at $\frac{3}{4}$ pound actual 2,4-D per acre is standard treatment for broad leaved weeds. IPC applied by ground rig as spray has given excellent control of small canary grass and wild oats but is expensive (\$10-\$12 per acre).

PESTS AND DISEASES: This can best be discussed on an individual field basis. Consult your Farm Advisor or Agricultural Commissioner if you suspect a disease or pest may be causing damage.

SEE REVERSE SIDE