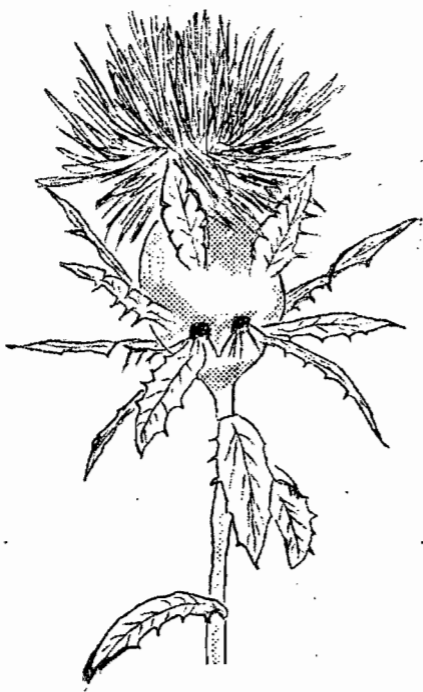


safflower

sample costs and production



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

Cost Data Sheet No. 6
UC Cooperative Extension

SAFFLOWER - SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Hand labor at \$1.90 per hour (\$1.50 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, and fringe benefits).

Yield - 1.75 tons per acre.

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
LAND PREPARATION						
Plow	8.00					8.00
Disc 2x	2.00					4.00
Weed Control	3.00	herbicide	6.00			9.00
Float 2x	1.00					2.00
Fertilize & List	3.00	200# N (NH ₃)	12.00			15.00
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						38.00
GROWING PERIOD						
Plant	3.00	15# seed	1.80			4.80
Irrigate 12x		water 6 ac ft	13.80	6.3	12.00	25.80
TOTAL GROWING PERIOD						30.60
HARVEST COSTS						
Combine	8.00/acre + .10 cwt over 1 ton					10.00
Haul	2.00 per ton					4.00
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS						14.00
Land rent						50.00
Cash overhead 15% of above						19.89
TOTAL ALL COSTS						\$152.49

Cost per ton = \$87.13

GENERAL INFORMATION

The average yields for safflower during the last five years have ranged from .9 to 1.6 tons per acre with a selling price of \$80.00 to \$100.00 per ton.

SOIL REQUIREMENT

Safflower is adapted to all soils in Imperial Valley. It is moderate salt tolerant; however, for best results it should not be grown in very saline fields. The important factor is that the soil be well drained, not only on the surface but internally. Safflower will not tolerate standing water due to the susceptibility to phytophthora root rot.

LAND PREPARATION

Fields must be level enough to prevent standing water. The crop can be planted on beds, either in a mulch or in dry beds and irrigated up. It can also be planted flat in borders either in a mulch or dry bed irrigated up.

PLANTING

Optimum planting dates range from December 15th to January 15th. When planting on double row 40 inch beds, 15 pounds of seed will be adequate. When safflower is drilled

in flat, 30 pounds of seed should be used. Seven or 14 inch drill rows should be used.

When safflower is planted in a mulch, the seed should be placed $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2 inches deep. A one inch planting depth is recommended for dry plantings. Safflower planted in a mulch emerges several days earlier than when planted dry and irrigated up.

VARIETIES

The variety Gila is recommended for the Imperial Valley. There are a number of other varieties that look promising and are being planted.

FERTILIZATION

Safflower requires 200 pounds of nitrogen per acre for maximum yield. Imperial Valley soils usually contain sufficient phosphorus for safflower production. Phosphorus applications may be warranted when the safflower crop is grown on coarse-textured soils (sands, loamy sands and some sandy loams) not following vegetable crops.

IRRIGATION

For maximum yield, safflower will require 10 - 12 irrigations depending on the season and soil type. It should never be allowed to become stressed for moisture since moisture stress tends to increase the amount of root rot.

WEED CONTROL

Consult the Imperial County Weed Control Recommendations.

INSECTS

Insect pests which may occur on safflower are: Cutworm, green peach aphid, thrips, lygus bugs, loopers, stink bugs, bollworms, leafminers, and leafhoppers.

Consult the Imperial County Pest Control Recommendations.

DISEASES

Two major diseases of safflower: phytophthora root rot and safflower rust. The varieties Gila and Frio are resistant to phytophthora root rot. One method of avoiding safflower rust is to plant in fields which do not have an immediate safflower history.

MARKETING

Most safflower is grown under contract with a processing plant for a guaranteed price.

Circular 532 by Knowles and Miller contains more comprehensive information about the crop.

HARVESTING

Safflower is ready to harvest when the leaves and particularly the bracts around the heads turn brown.

Prepared by
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