

**WHAT DOES IT COST YOU TO GROW ALFALFA
IN THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY DESERT AREA?
1954**

Based on 6 ton yield (Palo Verde)

COST OF ESTABLISHING A STAND*	Sample Costs per A.	Your Costs per A.
<u>Land Preparation - Labor and Field Power</u>		
Plow and/or chisel 1x	\$ 6.00	.....
Disc 2x	4.00	.....
Land plane or float 2x	6.00	.....
Borders	3.00	.....
Irrigate 2x . . . . .	.80	.....
Float prior to seeding	1.50	.....
Seeding	2.00	.....
Seed 20# @ 30¢	6.00	.....
Irrigation water 1 ac. ft.	2.00	.....
TOTAL LABOR AND MATERIAL	31.30	.....
*No charge is made for use of land		

ANNUAL COST OF PRODUCTION (3 yr. life)				
ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS		YOUR COSTS	
	Per Acre	Per Ton	Per Acre	Per Ton
<u>Labor and Field Power and Material</u>				
Renovate	\$.00		.....	.....
Irrigation 20x	8.00		.....	.....
Ditch work and weed control	2.00		.....	.....
Fertilizer application 1x	1.00		.....	.....
Fertilizer - 150# Treble Superphosphate	6.40		.....	.....
Irrigation water (annual charge)	12.00		.....	.....
LABOR TOTAL (up to harvest).	\$29.40	\$ 4.90	.....	.....
<u>Harvesting</u>				
Mow and Rake 7x (each) @ \$1.25	\$17.50		.....	.....
Baling @ \$4.00	24.00		.....	.....
Haul and stack @ 9¢ bale	9.18		.....	.....
HARVEST TOTAL.	\$50.68	\$ 8.45	.....	.....
<u>Cash Overhead</u>				
General Expense - 5% (above)	\$ 4.00		.....	.....
Taxes	6.00		.....	.....
Insurance and Misc.	1.00		.....	.....
CASH OVERHEAD TOTAL	\$11.00	\$ 1.83	.....	.....
Depreciation on stand	\$10.76	\$ 1.79	.....	.....
TOTAL CASH AND DEPRECIATION COSTS	\$100.84	\$16.67	.....	.....
<u>Other costs to be added</u>				
Land-rent or interest on invest.	\$40.00	\$ 6.67	.....	.....
Management (make your own estimate)			.....	.....

The above sample costs were arrived at after consulting growers in the Palo Verde Valley and are based on good commercial production. Costs will vary widely. Compute your own costs by filling in the last two columns based on yields and inputs of labor, materials and cash costs from your own records. Make your own estimate for pasture credit.

PROFIT = YIELD X PRICE - COSTS

ALFALFA HAY PRODUCTION
Coachella and Palo Verde Valleys
1954

STATUS: Hay and seed production go hand in hand in the Palo Verde Valley with seed production playing a lesser roll in the Coachella at present. Alfalfa should be a basic rotation crop in both areas. Winter pasturing is another important source of revenue.

YIELDS: Production of hay alone in Palo Verde Valley runs 5 - 7 tons per acre. Hay and seed together run 2 - 4 tons with 300 - 600 pounds of seed per acre. Hay production in the Coachella runs 6 - 8 tons per acre.

VARIETIES: Africa alfalfa is recommended where two year stands are desired. California Common should be planted for a longer lived stand. California Common 49 alfalfa and Caliverde alfalfa are also available.

PLANTING DATES: October and November plantings are most desirable although many plantings are made December to March. Fields subject to blowing should be seeded to Sudan grass or barley previous to the alfalfa planting. Seed sudan not later than September 1st. Sudan planted before September 1st can be cut for hay and alfalfa drilled in the stubble anytime. Barley (10-30# per acre) and alfalfa can be seeded after September 15th. If barley shades alfalfa, mow for hay or pasture.

LAND PREPARATION: A well worked level seed bed should be prepared. Fill in furrows along the borders when border disk is used. A drag-scraper working across the irrigation run builds excellent borders and takes out side-fall. See cost record for operations.

SEEDING: Rates from 12-30 pounds are commonly used. Best stands are obtained by drilling. Seed one inch deep into moist seed bed on easily worked soils which hold moisture well. Plant shallow ($\frac{1}{2}$ ") on hard soils and irrigate up. Twelve to fifteen pounds of seed is adequate when drill is used.

IRRIGATION: Borders vary in width from 24' to 100' depending on amount of water available, soil type and length of run. Light soil should have narrower borders and shorter runs. Two to three irrigations are needed between cuttings. Scald from standing water in July, August and September is a serious problem.

FERTILIZERS: Phosphate only is recommended in Palo Verde Valley. Some areas give phosphate response in the Coachella Valley making it necessary for the grower to test by applying phosphate on two or three border checks and making comparative bale counts. Apply 60-70 pounds of actual phosphate (P_2O_5) annually, during the winter months.

HARVESTING: Good quality hay is made only in weed-free fields. Control weeds by use of selective sprays, clipping or keeping solid stands. Cut when 1/10 to 1/2 bloom stage is reached or when new shoot growth is starting. Bale at proper moisture content to avoid loss of leaves.

PESTS AND DISEASES: Aphids may cause trouble in the spring. Alfalfa butterflies and red spiders are often serious in the summer. Consult your farm advisor for control measures. Cotton root rot may be present and serious in the Palo Verde Valley - no control is known. Rhizoctonia is present and sometimes serious - no control is known.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED PAST 5 YEARS PER TON

1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
27.70	22.50	19.70	30.40	32.40

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