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HYBRID CORN - 1956

University of California
Agricultural Extension Service
Imperial County
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WHAT DOES IT COST YOU TO GROW FIELD CORN (HYBRID) FOR ENSILAGE?
(Based on 15 tons silage)

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS		YOUR COSTS	
	Per Acre	Per Ton	Per Acre	Per Ton
LAND PREPARATION (AFTER COTTON)				
Subsoil 1x	6.00			
Disc 2x	3.00			
Float 1x	1.25			
Fertilize	2.00			
List 1x	2.50			
Irrigate beds 1x	1.00			
Miscellaneous	1.00			
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION	16.75	1.12		
CULTURAL LABOR & FIELD POWER				
Mulch beds	1.75			
Plant	2.00			
Cultivate 2x	4.50			
Fertilize 1x	2.25			
Irrigate 12x	6.00			
Pest control 2x	4.00			
Miscellaneous	2.00			
TOTAL CULTURAL	22.50	1.50		
MATERIALS				
Irrigation water (3 ft. + 15 gate charges)	6.05			
Seed - 10 lbs. @ 25¢	2.50			
Fertilizer (200 lbs. N)	30.00			
Pest control	5.00			
TOTAL MATERIALS	43.55	2.90		
TOTAL COSTS UP TO HARVEST	82.80	5.52		
HARVESTING				
Chop for silage)	37.50	2.50		
Haul to pit) \$2.50/ton				
Packing, etc.)				
TOTAL HARVEST	37.50	2.50		
CASH OVERHEAD				
General expense (5%)	4.14			
Insurance	1.25			
Repairs	1.00			
Miscellaneous	2.00			
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD	8.39	.56		
Land rent (½ year)	25.00	1.67		
Depreciation	2.00	.13		
TOTAL ALL COSTS	155.69	10.38		

The above are estimated costs of growing hybrid corn in Imperial County. Cost of land is listed at a ½ year's rental rate.

Estimate your own costs by filling in the last two columns based on yields and operations and materials that might be required on your own land.

SEE REVERSE SIDE

FIELD (HYBRID) CORN FOR SILAGE

HISTORY: Hybrid corn for grain has not been grown extensively in Imperial Valley as most varieties have not produced well under our conditions. Mexican June corn (a white corn) has been grown many years locally for roasting ears, and for grinding for tortillas, etc., but yields have not been high. Grain yields of the hybrids at present cannot be expected to top 80 bushels per acre. For silage, hybrid corn or Mexican June have been fairly successful.

VARIETIES: Texas hybrids have generally been grown. Among these Texas 30 has been most used. Most plantings in 1952 were of Texas 18 and Watson 124; in 1953 Texas 30 and Texas 18 were planted. Some Pfister varieties such as No. 347 have done well on grain trials. Yields of grain are around 70 bushels and for silage from 10 to 25 tons.

PLANTING DATES: Spring crop February 1-March 15; Fall crop, July 20-August 10. The fall crop is plagued by insects. The spring crop has been the more successful. Planting dates should be chosen such that the corn pollinates when temperatures are below 108° F.

PLANTING: Can be planted dry and irrigated up or planted in a mulch (moist ground). Less trouble with weeds is encountered when crop is mulched in.

SOILS: Can be grown on practically any of our normal, good producing soils.

FERTILIZERS: High yields are to be obtained only by using high rates of nitrogen. 150 to 200 lbs. of actual nitrogen have given good yields. Phosphates need not be applied where corn is grown in a normal rotation in which other crops have been phosphated or on ground where good yields of crops such as alfalfa or cotton have been obtained.

IRRIGATION: Water transpiration rate is very high when the corn plants are large and frequent irrigations are essential. The corn should not be allowed to wilt at any time. Leaf curl is a sign of dryness.

PESTS AND DISEASES: One or two pesticide treatments may be necessary. Watch out for cut worms and flea beetles when corn is small; army worms and corn ear worms as it gets larger; worms and stink bugs from tasseling to maturity. Get specific recommendations from your farm advisor.

HARVESTING: This is by mechanical silage choppers which chop and blow the chopped corn into a truck which hauls it to the silage pit. Packing the chopped corn in the pit is essential. Tracklayer tractors do an excellent job of packing. Harvest date is usually in July for ensilage.

COSTS OF PRODUCTION: See reverse side of this sheet.