

forage
sorghums
sample costs
and
production



Agricultural Extension Service
University of California
Imperial County
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Cost Data Sheet No. 14
UC Cooperative Extension

SORGHUMS (FORAGE)--SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

(Based on custom rates--60 tons per acre--double cropped)

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS	
	Per Acre	Per Ton
LAND PREPARATION		
Disc 2x	\$ 4.00	
Float 2x	3.50	
Fertilize 1x	2.00	
List 1x	3.00	
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION	\$ 12.50	\$.21
CULTURAL LABOR AND POWER		
Plant	3.00	
Cultivate 3x	9.00	
Fertilize and furrow out 3x	9.00	
Setting irrigation pipe	3.00	
Irrigate 15x	15.00	
TOTAL LABOR AND POWER	\$ 39.00	\$.65
MATERIALS		
Seed (15 lbs. @ 20¢)	3.00	
Fertilizer 300# N	18.00	
Irrigation water (7 acre-feet)	14.00	
TOTAL MATERIALS	\$ 35.00	\$.58
TOTAL PRE-HARVEST COSTS	\$ 86.50	\$ 1.44
HARVESTING		
Chop (\$1.00/Ton)	60.00	
Haul (\$1.00/Ton)	60.00	
Pack and seal	17.50	
TOTAL HARVESTING	\$ 137.50	\$ 2.29
CASH OVERHEAD 10% of above	22.40	.37
LAND RENT	45.00	.75
TOTAL ALL COSTS	\$ 291.00	\$ 4.85

SUMMARY

Top quality silage depends upon the nature of the forage as well as the ensiling method. Poor quality forage results in poor quality feed. Greater value will result when the following practices are followed--

- ✓ plant adapted varieties
- ✓ harvest at proper time

WHEN TO HARVEST

Maximum dry matter yields per acre are important to silage production. High tonnage reduces production costs per ton.

Harvest when grain is in the soft to medium dough stage.

SOIL PREPARATION

Soils suited to alfalfa should produce sorghums well. Keep land preparation costs low.

PLANTING RATES & DATES

When soil temperature reaches 65°F, plant 10 to 20 lbs. seed per acre on 30 to 36 inch beds. Irrigate up.

For double cropping, plant March 15 to April 1. For single crop, plant March 15 to July 1.

FERTILIZATION

Only nitrogen is recommended. Needs for phosphorus usually furnished from previous crops. A single crop uses 100 to 150 lbs. of actual nitrogen per acre. If double cropped, apply another 150 lbs. of nitrogen after the first cutting. On sandy soils, the same amounts should be used in split applications.

IRRIGATION

Apply water often enough to prevent leaves from curling.

PEST & DISEASE CONTROL

Consult your Field Crop Pest & Disease Control guide for latest recommendations.

VARIETIES

Consult Farm Advisor's office for latest recommendation.

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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-operating. 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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