

SU-VS-50

PRODUCTION OF SUDAN GRASS FOR HAY

Costs of Production

Sudan for hay - yield - 8 T. per A. (double cropped)

	<u>Per Acre</u>
Total labor and field power cost.....	\$ 85.50
General Expense, taxes, etc.....	7.00
Depreciation (60%).....	3.00
Interest (60%).....	<u>16.30</u>

Total Cost.....\$111.80 = \$13.98 per T.

Approximate cost per cwt. T.D.N. = \$1.40

Cultural Practices

Planting: Sudan grass for hay can be planted between the middle of April and the 1st of July after the last threat of killing frost is past. Sudan requires a well-prepared seed bed and can be drilled or broadcast planted (drilled is preferred). Fifteen to twenty pounds of seed per acre is necessary to obtain an adequate stand under irrigation.

Fertilizer: Sudan for hay requires nitrogen fertilizer if optimum yields are to be obtained. On heavy soils, application of thirty pounds of actual nitrogen per acre for each cutting is generally necessary. For lighter soils these applications could go as high as fifty pounds of nitrogen per cutting for maximum yields of hay.

Irrigation: Sudan grass requires from three to four acre feet of water for a full season (early plantings). Irrigation should be frequent enough to keep the plants in a healthy, vigorous growing condition. Avoid allowing Sudan grass to suffer for water. Prussic acid poisoning is not common in California yet it has occurred, and Sudan grass that is under drought stress can be dangerous.

Varieties: Sudan 23 is the highest yielding variety tested in California, ranging in tests made at Davis from 10 to 20% higher than common or sweet Sudan. Its particular desirable characteristic is its ability to recover quickly after grazing or cutting.

Sweet Sudan is possibly more palatable than Sudan 23, but its yielding ability is not as high.

Harvest: Sudan hay is equivalent in feeding value to other non-leguminous

hay, such as barley or oats. For best production, cut Sudan hay shortly after it begins to head. Because the stems are large and juicy, the hay should be dried in the swath or windrow until it becomes dry enough to prevent heating. Chopping Sudan can be easily managed.