

University of California
College of Agriculture Extension Service
Merced County

BARLEY AS A CASH CROP

by
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Barley has long been a dependable bread and butter crop. There are many higher income crops, but few that are as easy to grow as barley. It can play an important part in taking up some of the slack in the cotton acreage reduction program. To do this effectively from a dollar and cents standpoint, yields will have to be increased, and the land should be double cropped. A table of estimated costs has been included for your consideration.



SOIL & SEEDBED



Barley is adapted to a wide range of soils, and of particular interest to cotton growers is barley's tolerance of alkali. Following cotton it can be planted with a minimum of seedbed preparation. Either go over the cotton with a stalk cutter and disk or disk in two directions, border, plant, and harrow.



VARIETIES



There are several excellent varieties available to California barley growers. The choice depends somewhat on time of planting and whether or not the land will be double cropped.

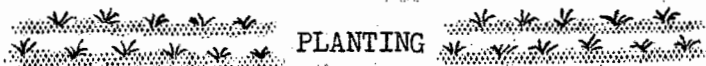
California Mariout: Earliest variety - short straw and some tendency to lodge on fertile soil.

Atlas 46:

A malting barley - resistant to scald and mildew - late in maturity.

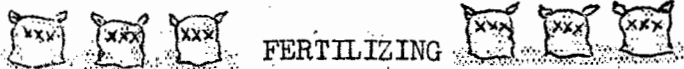
Arivat:

An early variety - stiff straw - high yield.

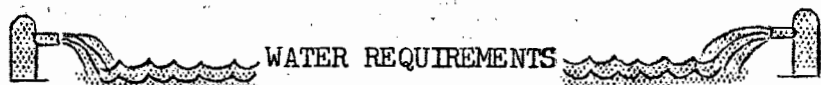


November 1 to February 1 is the average planting season. Yields usually drop on barley planted later than the middle of January.

The seeding rate will range from 70 to 90 pounds per acre, and the seed should be treated with Ceresan M or other good fungicide to control smut, stripe and seedling diseases.



A separate leaflet is available on barley fertilizers, "Dollars and Sense on Grain Fertilizers".



If possible a pre-irrigation or early irrigation, plus two in the spring will usually be sufficient. This will amount to about 2 acre feet of water.



Combines are available in all parts of the county on a custom basis.

Average Prices Over Last 5 Years - Per Cwt.

1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
\$2.17	\$2.46	\$2.58	\$2.94	\$2.85

COST OF GROWING IRRIGATED BARLEY IN MERCED COUNTY

(Based on 3,000 pound yield - double crop)

11/53

	<u>Sample Costs</u>		<u>My Costs</u>	
	<u>Per</u>	<u>Per</u>	<u>Per</u>	<u>Per</u>
	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>
Prepare land: plow, disk, harrow, etc. - man & heavy tractor - 2 hrs.	7.00			
Drill: man & light tractor - 1/3 hr.	.83			
Irrigate: 1 pre-irrigation & 2 crop - 4 man hrs.	4.00			
Fertilize - no additional hrs.				
Combine contract	7.00			
Haul: bulk to storage	3.00			
<u>Total Labor & Field Power</u>	<u>21.83</u>	<u>.73</u>		
Irrigation water: 2 acre ft.	5.00			
Seed: certified	4.12			
Fertilizer: 40% Nitrogen @ 15¢	6.00			
<u>Total Material Cost</u>	<u>15.12</u>	<u>.50</u>		
General expense: 5% of labor & material	1.85			
County taxes: 1/2 annual cost	3.00			
Insurance, misc. cash costs	2.00			
<u>Total Cash Overhead Costs</u>	<u>6.85</u>	<u>.23</u>		
TOTAL CASH, LABOR & FIELD POWER	43.80	1.46		
Depreciation costs:				
Irrigation facilities: \$60 cost - 1/2 annual charge - 20 yr. life	1.50			
Tillage & other equipment: \$15 cost - 10 yr. life	1.50			
<u>Total Depreciation Cost</u>	<u>3.00</u>	<u>.10</u>		
Interest on investment at 5%:				
Irrigation facilities, tillage equipment at original cost (Barley share 1/2)	1.00			
Land at \$400 per acre (Barley share 1/2)	10.00			
<u>Total Interest on Investment</u>	<u>11.00</u>	<u>.36</u>		
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION	57.80	1.92		

The above figures are based on double cropping barley with a summer crop. Weed control costs (2,4-D spraying) have not been included, nor have bulk storage or warehousing costs.

November, 1953

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