

WHAT WILL IT COST TO GROW COTTON IN FRESNO COUNTY
BASED ON YIELD OF 750 LBS. OF LINT PER ACRE

Man Labor at \$.90; Medium Wheel Tractor \$1.60 Per Hour

	Sample Costs		My Costs	
	Per Acre	Per Cwt. Lint	Per Acre	Per Cwt. Lint
LABOR COSTS:				
Land preparation - 5 hrs., man & tractor			\$12.75	
Plant (4 row planter) 2 men & tractor .3 hr.			1.02	
Irrigate - 1 pre & 7 crop - 9 man hrs.			8.10	
Thin & weed - contract			4.50	
Cultivate & fertilize (4 row) 3 1/2 man, 3 tractor hrs.			7.95	
Hoe & weed 2 x - 8 man hrs.			7.20	
Pest control - dust 2 x - contract @ 4¢ lb.			2.40	
Miscellaneous other work			2.50	
Picking - machine contract, 1st pick @ 1.5¢ & 2nd @ 2¢			35.00	
Hauling - field to gin			1.50	
Ginning - at 45¢ per cwt. seed cotton			9.00	
Dry & lint clean			1.50	
Total Labor & Field Power Cost			93.15	12.42
MATERIAL COSTS:				
Irrigation water; power for 3 1/2-4 acre ft. @ \$2.50/ac. ft.			9.30	
Seed; 25 lbs. delinted & treated @ 8 1/2¢			2.13	
Fertilizers to provide 80 lbs. actual nitrogen @ 13.5¢			10.80	
Dust for pest control - 60 lbs. @ 9¢			5.40	
Bags, Ties, Ins., Storage, Sampling, etc.- \$4.60/bale			7.05	
Total Material Costs			34.68	4.63
CASH OVERHEAD COSTS:				
General expense			7.05	
County taxes			6.30	
Misc. repairs, insurance, etc.			3.50	
Total Cash Overhead			16.85	2.25
TOTAL CASH, LABOR AND FIELD POWER COSTS			144.68	19.30
DEPRECIATION:				
Bldg. & irrig. fac. \$90 cost - 20 yrs. life			4.50	
Tillage, planter & other equip. except tractor-\$17-10 yrs. life			1.70	
Total Depreciation Cost			6.20	0.83
INTEREST ON INVESTMENT AT 5%:				
Bldgs. & irrig. fac. @ 1/2 original cost			2.25	
Tillage & other equip. @ 1/2 original cost			0.43	
Land at \$400			20.00	
Total Interest on Investment			22.68	3.02
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION			173.56	23.15
CREDIT FOR VALUE OF 1125 LBS. SEED @ \$62/Ton			34.88	4.65
NET COST OF PRODUCTION LINT COTTON			138.68	18.50

Above costs make no allowances for extra labor required for removal of previous crop residues, abnormal weeding costs or seed treatment for wireworm. In figuring tenant's costs on rented land, cash rent would usually be substituted for county taxes, depreciation and interest on irrigation facilities and interest on land. On share rental the tenant would figure just his costs but these would be divided by only his share of the crop to obtain cost per cwt. lint.

UC Cooperative Extension

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GROWING COTTON IN FRESNO COUNTY

Planting: 15 to 30 pounds of seed is planted at a depth of 1 to 2 inches. Rows are usually spaced 38 or 40 inches. Cotton is planted from late March to May 15.

Thinning: Thinning can begin when the plants are 4 to 7 inches tall. Plants are thinned from 2 to 9 inches apart. Thinning to single plants is not necessary.

Fertilizers: Nitrogen is needed in most fields. From 80 to 150 pounds of actual nitrogen is usually needed per acre. A few places may need phosphorus. To date no trials in the county have shown the need for potash. Fertilizers are usually side-dressed in one application prior to the first crop irrigation. In sandy soils, a split application of nitrogen may be desirable.

Irrigation: Cotton requires about $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 feet of water per year. The soil should be wetted to 5 or 6 feet before planting. Cotton requires from 4 to 14 irrigations per season — the number depends upon the soil type and size of plants.

Cultivation: In most places cultivations should be made for weed control only. Cultivations in some places may increase the rate of water penetration. Too deep or too many cultivations should be avoided. As soon as the plants are high enough, soil may be thrown into the plant row to cover any small weeds that may appear. In this way furrows are developed for irrigation.

Insects: Early observance and timely insect control are extremely essential. An annually revised leaflet on cotton insect control is available at the Farm Advisors office.

Diseases: Verticillium wilt, a soil borne fungus, is serious in many Fresno County fields. Progress is being made in developing resistant strains of cotton. Plant only the seed approved by the California Cotton Planting Seed Distributors.

Sore shin, damping-off (Rhizoctonia) may be partially controlled by seed treatment, avoid irrigation during cool damp weather and cultivate as early as possible to dry out soil around seedling.

Bacterial Blight (angular leaf spot). Rotate field out of cotton for at least one year.

Nematodes: Land infested with root-knot nematode should be treated before planting to cotton. Contact the Farm Advisors office for details.

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