PLANTING DATES

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VARIETIES

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FERTILIZATION

Phosphate—broadcast before listing.

Nitrogen—Apply 1/3 of required amount with phosphate preplant, 1/3 at thinning and final 1/3 before mid-December. Late applications of nitrogen will reduce sugar percentage and purity.

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WEED CONTROL

Most growers are using herbicides for weed control in sugar beets. The pre-emergence herbicides are used by most growers. Consult Weed Control Recommendations - Imperial County or the Weed Control Farm Advisor for latest information.

PESTS AND DISEASES

Pest populations vary from year to year and costs vary accordingly. A number of insects and diseases may be a problem during the growing season. Growers planting extremely early should exercise all caution against damage by inspecting fields often and carefully. Crickets, flea beetles and armyworms normally occur as seedling pests and are especially damaging in early plantings. From January to March the green peach aphid is a primary pest. Spider mites and leafhoppers occur as late season pests. Consult Pest Control Recommendations - Imperial County.

Nematodes are continuing to be a major pest. Growers should carefully clean all machinery moving into the beet fields. Crop rotation is the only control presently feasible.

Prepared by
Imperial County
Agricultural Extension Staff
Revised August 1974

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# SUGAR BEETS—SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Labor at $3.00 per hour ($2.53 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, and fringe benefits).

Yield - 26 tons per acre bases.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPERATION</th>
<th>Custom Rate</th>
<th>MATERIALS</th>
<th>HAND LABOR</th>
<th>SAMPLE COSTS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Cost</td>
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<td>Dollars</td>
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<tr>
<td>LAND PREPARATION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flow or subsail</td>
<td>12.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disc 2x</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Build &amp; Break</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Borders</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flood</td>
<td>Water .9 ac ft</td>
<td>2.70</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disc 2x</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertilize 2#</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>30º f 11-42-0</td>
<td>34.50</td>
<td>37.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertilize 1# N</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>100º N</td>
<td>13.00</td>
<td>15.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Float</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>List</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 96.70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| GROWING PERIOD |          |          |            |              |
| Incorporate & 1.0, Herbicide | 10.00 | 27.00 |
| Plant 13.00 | Seed 2# row | 4.00 |
| Cultivate | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| Thin | 15.00 | 15.00 |
| Cultivate 2x | 4.00 | 8.00 |
| Fertilize 2x | 2.50 | 30º N (2x) | 32.00 | 37.00 |
| Weed Control | 10.0 | 32.40 |
| Insect Control 4x | 3.00 | Insecticide | 21.00 |
| Irrigate 12x* | Water 5 ft | 13.50 | 6.3 | 18.90 | 32.40 |
| GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREP COSTS |          |          |            | $188.80      |
| GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREP COSTS |          |          |            | $285.50      |

| TOTAL PREHARVEST COST |          |          |            | $472.08      |

| HARVEST-COSTS |          |          |            |              |
| Dig | 1.50 per ton @ 26.0 tons per acre | 39.00 |
| Haul | 1.10 per ton @ 26.0 tons per acre plus 5¢ per mile | 6 miles (average 50¢ per ton/mileage charge) | 41.60 |

| TOTAL ALL COSTS |          |          |            | $552.68      |

Cost per ton = $21.26

* Railroad freight, cost not included.

** If sprinklers are used for germinating crop, additional cost is $60.00/A.

** GENERAL INFORMATION

The average yields for sugar beets during the last five years have ranged from 17.50 to 26.3 tons per acre. The overall average for the five year period was 23.6 tons per acre. The average selling price has ranged from $16.80 to $20.20 per ton.

** SEED BED PREPARATION

Costs based in the guideline on flat pre-irrigation due to slightly lower costs, tendency towards lowering salinity levels, and usually better soil condition in the seed bed.

** SEEDING RATES

A slightly greater amount of seed is generally used in early plantings due to difficulty in getting stands in the extremely hot weather.
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