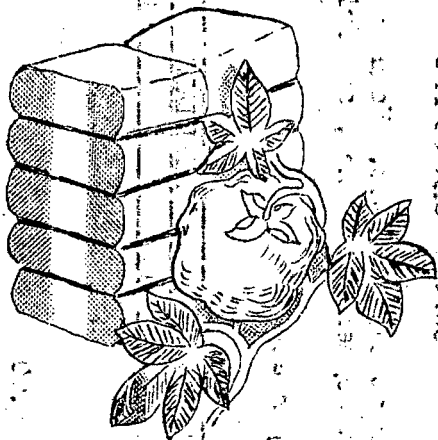


cotton
sample costs
and
production



Agricultural Extension Service
University of California
Imperial County
Court House, El Centro

Cost Data Sheet No. 4
UC Cooperative Extension

COTTON--SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Hand labor at \$1.90 per hour (\$1.50 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, and fringe benefits).

Based on 3.00 bales per acre.

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
LAND PREPARATION						
Plow or subsoil	8.00					8.00
Disc 2x	2.00					4.00
Fertilize	1.00	100 lb N (NH ₃)	6.00			7.00
Float	1.00					1.00
List	3.00					3.00
Irrigate		water .5 acre ft	1.00	.5	1.00	2.00
Cultivate	3.00					3.00
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						\$ 28.00
GROWING PERIOD						
Plant and Incorporate	10.00	seed 20# @ .15 herbicide fungicide	3.00 5.25 2.00			20.25
Cultivate 4x	3.00					12.00
Fertilize 3x	3.00	100# N (NH ₃) X3	18.00			27.00
Hoe & Weed				5.2	10.00	10.00
Insect Control 7x	1.50	insecticide	21.00			31.50
Lay by Herbicide	3.50	herbicide	5.00			8.50
Irrigate 14x		water 7 acre ft	14.00	7.4	14.00	28.00
Defoliate	2.00	10 gallons	7.50			9.50
TOTAL GROWING PERIOD						\$ 146.75
HARVEST COSTS						
Machine picking	20.00	per bale				60.00
Hauling	1.00	/bale				3.00
Ginning	1.25	/cwt of seed cotton				56.25
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS						\$ 119.25
Land Rent						100.00
Cash overhead 15% of above						59.10
TOTAL COSTS						\$ 453.10

Cost per pound = 30.2¢

YIELDS

The production for the county generally exceeds 3 bales per acre.

PLANTING DATES

Cotton planted around the 1st of April has fewer stand problems than earlier plantings. Yields decrease when cotton is planted later than March 20th.

PLANTING

Cotton usually is grown on all soil types in Imperial County. Sloping beds will usually give better stands where salinity is a problem.

IRRIGATION

Do not allow the plants to wilt at any time. Cotton plants stressed for water will shed squares and bolls.

VARIETIES

Delta Pine Smooth-Leaf dominates acreage planted.

FERTILIZERS

About 400 lbs. of nitrogen will produce a good crop applied in four applications: before planting, at thinning, and in early June.

Nitrogen applied after August 15 promotes lodging and is usually too late to influence the top crop and makes defoliation more difficult.

PLANT SPACING

Spacings within the row of 3 to 12 inches result in approximately the same yields.

INSECT AND DISEASE CONTROL

Seedling diseases can reduce cotton stands to the point where replanting may be necessary. The seedling disease problem frequently is more severe where cotton follows sugar beets or alfalfa. Seed treatment and a row furrow treatment is desirable.

Many pests attack cotton in Imperial County. For the latest control recommendations, consult the Pest Control Recommendations for Imperial County Field Crops. Copies are available at your Farm Advisors' Office.

WEED CONTROL

Several herbicides are now in common use both as pre-emergence and lay by treatments.

UC Cooperative Extension

Prepared by
Imperial County
Agricultural Extension Service
Staff
Revised November 1966

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.

UC Cooperative Extension