

estimated

skip row cotton costs



University of California
Agricultural Extension Service
Imperial County
Court House, El Centro
Fact Sheet No. 35
UC Cooperative Extension

Cotton

PROJECTED COSTS OF SKIP ROW PLANTINGS^{1/}
 Assume a base of 2.5 bales per acre.
 on solid planting

Operations	Planting Pattern			
	2 x 12 ^{2/}	2 x 2	Solid	
LAND PREP. - Labor & Field Power	:	35% ^{3/}	50% ^{3/}	:
Subsoil or plow	: \$12.00	: \$16.00	: \$16.00	: \$ 8.00
Disc 2x	: 6.00	: 8.00	: 8.00	: 4.00
Land plane	: 4.13	: 5.50	: 5.50	: 2.75
Fertilize	: 3.00	: 4.00	: 4.00	: 2.00
Listing	: 4.50	: 6.00	: 6.00	: 3.00
Mulching	: 3.37	: 4.50	: 4.50	: 2.25
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION	33.00	44.00	44.00	22.00
CULTURAL LABOR & FIELD POWER				
Plant	: 3.75	: 5.00	: 5.00	: 2.50
Cultivate 4x	: 15.00	: 20.00	: 20.00	: 10.00
Fertilize	: 6.00	: 6.00	: 6.00	: 4.00
Hoe & Weed	: 30.00	: 40.00	: 40.00	: 20.00
Insect Cont. Application 7x	: 11.25	: 15.00	: 15.00	: 8.50
Irrigation 12x	: 13.50	: 18.00	: 18.00	: 9.00
TOTAL FOR CULTURAL LABOR, Etc.	79.50	104.00	104.00	54.00
MATERIALS:				
water	: 13.50	: 13.50	: 13.50	: 9.00
Seed - 20# @ \$800. per T.	: 2.00	: 2.00	: 2.00	: 2.00
Fertilizer 240 # N. & 100# P ₂ O ₅	: 26.80	: 26.80	: 26.80	: 26.80
Insecticides 7x	: 30.00	: 40.00	: 40.00	: 21.00
TOTAL MATERIALS	72.30	82.30	82.30	58.80
Total Growing Costs	184.80	230.30	230.30	134.80
HARVESTING:				
Machine Picking \$15./bale	: 2/	: 50.63	: 56.25	: 37.50
Hauling	: 2/	: 4.05	: 4.05	: 3.00
Ginning	: 2/	: 56.97	: 63.30	: 42.20
TOTAL HARVESTING		111.65	123.60	82.70
CASH OVERHEAD & MISC.	: 25.00	: 35.00	: 35.00	: 21.30
RENT	: 97.50	: 130.00	: 130.00	: 65.00
TOTAL COSTS	307.30	506.95	518.90	303.80
RECEIPTS:				
Lint @ 31.88¢	: 2/	: 538.77	: 597.73	: 398.50
Seed @ \$44./Ton	: 2/	: 59.40	: 66.00	: 44.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS		598.17	663.73	442.50
TOTAL COSTS	307.30	506.95	518.90	303.80
NET PROFIT		91.22	144.83	138.70

^{1/} Costs of Solid plantings projected into skip row patterns
^{2/} No yield data available from research
^{3/} Range of yield increases based on 1 year's data at the Shafter Cotton Station.

NOTE: These figures are to be used only as a guide. Skip row planting is an expensive operation. Just how expensive it is will depend upon the practices that each individual grower follows. Some savings can be made from the above figures; using ground rigs, for example, for early insect application will reduce the amount of insecticides that are used. The same might be said for water, as some growers probably will not irrigate as many furrows early in the season, so some savings might be made in this respect.

One can say generally, that the costs for growing cotton on the 2x2 skip row pattern will be essentially double that of solid planting. Depending upon the grower's cultural practices, costs could be cut to a figure less than double, or in some cases, costs may be more than double.

Costs for the 2x1 pattern will lie somewhere between those of solid plantings and the 2x2 pattern. Here, again, costs will vary with grower practices.

OTHER FACTORS TO CONSIDER

Equipment

The row pattern that the grower follows should be governed to some extent by the type of equipment that he now has on the farm.

If it becomes necessary to buy new equipment or modify his present equipment, then the costs will be increased.

Weed control

Skip row cotton may present a real problem in weed control, especially after layby. The cotton gets too large for equipment to get through, and yet there is no plant cover to suppress weed growth.

Approved chemicals control weeds best where crop cover is adequate. Also many of our approved chemicals have short life.

Even the substituted ureas (Monuron & Diuron) are said to break down more rapidly when exposed to direct sunlight. Therefore, higher rates than are cleared may have to be used. If the materials don't break down, they may endanger the succeeding crop.

Good stand

To increase yield to the maximum, a good stand is necessary. This is

also true in solid plantings. Most efficient machine harvest can be achieved when the grower obtains a good uniform stand throughout the field.

Quality

This is one factor that is sure to improve with skip row plantings. The increased sunlight penetration and aeration will tend to reduce boll rot providing there is no lodging. Stains and spots will also be reduced.

When not to skip row

Most researchers and growers agree that skip row planting will not be effective if the field normally grows short cotton plants. Fields that normally grow tall, rank plants will benefit most from skip row plantings.

Yields

Only a meager amount of information is available on yields of skip row planted cotton. As stated on the reverse side, the range is from 35% to 50% increase over solid plantings, with the average at 48% (on the 2 x 2 pattern).

As far as the 2 x 1 pattern is concerned, there are no research data available. UC Cooperative Extension

Insect control

The cost of insect control will increase proportionately as the **acreage under cultivation increases**. Slightly less insecticide may be used per acre if ground rigs are used. All applications, ground or air, and supervised control programs should be based on the gross acreage.

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Issued March 1962

Co-operative Extension work in Agriculture and Home Economics, College of Agriculture, University of California and United States Department of Agriculture co-operating.

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