

Agricultural Briefs

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

SUDANGRASS SEED PRODUCTION

Soil Requirements: Adapted to wide variety of soils ranging from shallow hardpans to deep loams. Usually raised in Sacramento County in rotation with Ladino Clover.

Planting Dates: April 15 - May 30.

Harvest Dates: Late August - September.

Varieties: Piper Sudangrass and privately owned hybrids requiring strip planting of male sterile and pollinator.

Seeding Rate: 25 - 30 lbs/acre drilled.

Fertilizer Requirements: Usually 150 - 200 lbs of nitrogen + 100 lbs P₂O₅ on P deficient soils. On non P deficient soil use starter fertilizer providing N + about 20 lbs of P₂O₅. Utilize soil analysis to determine need for phosphate fertilizer.

Irrigation: Preirrigate if necessary, plant into moisture. On shallow soils irrigations every 10 - 14 days after crop shades the ground.

Normal Yield: 2500 - 3000 lbs/acre.

Insect Problems: Usually none, but occasionally true Armyworm needs control.

Disease Problems: Usually none.

Weed Problems: Watergrass which may be controlled by irrigation management or use of selective herbicide either preplant, preemergence of the Sudangrass or postemergence of Sudangrass and Watergrass. Broadleaf weeds especially morning glory may present a problem but are controlled with 2,4-D amine.

CAUTION: FOLLOW ALL LABEL DIRECTIONS AND PRECAUTIONS!

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TST/gs
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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS, Division of Agricultural Sciences,
University of California, U.S. Department of Agriculture and County of Sacramento cooperating
UC Cooperative Extension

SAMPLE COST TO PRODUCE SUDANGRASS SEED

Sacramento County - 1977

Yield: 2800 Lbs. per acre.

Labor Rates: \$3.50/hr. Unskilled
\$5.00/hr. Skilled
and fringe benefits

Operation	Hours	Fuel and Labor	Repairs	Cash and Labor Cost Per Acre		Total
	Per Acre			Materials Kind and Quantity	Cost	
<u>Cultural Costs</u>						
Disk 2x	.5	2.50	2.10			4.60
Ridge	.2	1.00	.80			1.80
Fertilize	.2	1.00	.90	200# N @ 17¢	\$34.00	35.90
				200# single super phosphate @ \$100/ton + \$2.75 applic.	\$12.75	12.75
Drag-Shape Levees	.3	1.50	2.15			3.65
Springtooth	.2	1.00	1.50			2.50
Harrow & Roll	.2	1.00	2.20			3.20
Plant	.2	1.00	1.90	25# seed @ 25¢	6.25	9.15
Irrigate 9x	1.5	5.25		3 ac.ft. @ \$8	24.00	29.25
Misc. Weed Control					4.00	4.00
Atrazine				Materials & Applic.	12.50	12.50
TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS		\$14.25	\$11.55		\$93.50	\$119.30
<u>Harvest Costs</u>						
Swath	.25	1.25	1.20			2.45
Combine	1.00	5.00	10.70			15.70
Haul				1.7 tons @ 15¢/cwt	5.78	5.78
Cleaning, bags, tags				1.4 tons @ \$.0185/lb	51.80	51.80
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS		\$6.25	\$11.90		\$57.58	\$75.73
<u>Cash Overhead</u>						
Misc., office, etc.					12.37	
Taxes					4.72	
Rent					60.00	
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD						\$77.09
TOTAL CASH COST		\$20.50	\$23.45		\$228.17	\$272.12
Management	5% of 2800# @ 12¢/lb. (336)					16.80
<u>INVESTEMENT</u>						
	<u>PER ACRE</u>			<u>Annual Cost</u>		
				<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Interest</u>	
Equipment	\$472.00			\$47.20	\$ 18.88	
Total						\$66.08
TOTAL COST PER ACRE						\$355.00
Cost per Pound	@ 2800# yield					\$ 12.07