

cereal crops  
sample costs  
and  
production



Cooperative Extension  
University of California  
Imperial County  
Court House, El Centro

Cost Data Sheet No. 3

CEREAL CROPS--PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS--1982-1983

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Labor at \$5.50 per hour (\$4.30 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance and fringe benefits.)

Yield--2.5 tons per acre. Days to maturity 90-170 days.

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR*		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
<b>LAND PREPARATION</b>						
Disc 2x	8.00					\$ 16.00
Float	7.50					7.50
Fertilize	7.00	100# N	14.00			21.00
List Borders	9.00					9.00
<b>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION</b>						<b>\$ 53.50</b>
<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>						
Plant	9.50	Seed 100# @ 16¢	16.00			\$ 25.50
Irrigate 5-7x		3 ac ft	22.50	3.5	19.25*	41.75
Fertilize 2x (water)		160# N	28.00			28.00
Weed Control	4.25	Herbicides	15.15			19.40
Pest Control 1x	4.25	Insecticides	6.50			10.75
Stubble disc 1x	17.00					17.00
<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>						<b>\$ 142.40</b>
<b>GROWING PERIOD &amp; LAND PREPARATION COSTS</b>						<b>\$ 195.90</b>
Land Rent (net acres)						140.00
Cash Overhead--12% of preharvest costs & land rent						40.31
<b>TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS</b>						<b>\$ 376.21</b>
<b>HARVEST COSTS</b>						
Combine	\$20 per acre & 35¢ cwt over 1 ton					\$ 30.50
Hauling	\$5 per ton					12.50
<b>TOTAL ALL COSTS</b>						<b>\$ 419.21</b>

Cost per unit--2.5 tons = $\frac{\text{CWT}}{\text{PER TON}}$ or \$ 8.38 or \$ 167.68
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\* Includes shovel labor, pipe setting, miscellaneous tractor work.

WHEAT

BARLEY

YEAR	ACRES	Yield/Acre (tons)	Value/Ton	YEAR	ACRES	Yield/Acre (tons)	Value/Ton
1977	77600	2.55	\$ 102.00	1977	7000	2.55	\$ 90.00
1978	140000	2.50	107.00	1978	8000	2.50	107.00
1979	100000	2.6	122.00	1979	4000	2.5	110.00
1980	142000	2.75	155.00	1980	1900	2.6	120.00
1981	162000	2.74	165.00	1981	400	2.5	120.00

**LAND PREPARATION:** When grains are planted in the mulch, the practice is disc, fertilize, disc and float. Next, apply the pre-mulch irrigation and when dry enough, mulch and plant.

**PLANTING DATES, RATES AND DEPTH:** Optimum planting dates for high grain yields of wheat are from December 1 through January 15. Rates of seeding range from 100 - 150 pounds per acre. Seed should not be planted deeper than 3-4 inches if planted in the mulch. If the crop is to be irrigated up, shallow planting of ½-1 inch is best.

**VARIETIES:** Recommended varieties of wheat include the common wheats, Yecora Rojo, and Probred, and durum wheats Produra, Mexicali 75, 1000 D, and Aldura.

The latest Barley tests indicate Sunbar 409, Prato, CM 72 and UC Signal have been the best yielders.

## FERTILIZATION

Imperial Valley soils usually contain sufficient phosphorus for grain production if phosphates have been applied to other crops in the rotation. In a wheat-sorghum rotation, phosphates should be applied to the wheat. Wheat generally needs added nitrogen at rates of 200-300 pounds per acre, depending on the previous crop. For good yield and quality of varieties with a tendency towards yellow-berry (low-percent hard vitreous kernels), nitrogen should be applied at a rate of 200-300 pounds per acre split into three applications--at preplant, tillering, and boot stage.

## IRRIGATION

Pre-mulch irrigations should be heavy. Subsequent

irrigations should be sufficient to maintain good growth and avoid stress. Yield can increase with the last irrigation as late as the medium dough stage, but this late irrigation also increases the risk of shattering and lodging.

## WEED CONTROL

Weeds should be controlled in wheat to increase yield and to reduce the weed population in following crops. Consult the Farm Advisors' office for chemicals that are available for use.

## INSECT CONTROL

Aphids are the only insects that may cause serious damage to wheat. Contact the Farm Advisors' office for insecticides that can be used in Imperial Valley.

## INCOME ABOVE ALL COSTS

Price Per CWT

		\$ 6.00	6.50	7.00	7.50	8.00
Yield Per Acre CWT	40	-173	-159	-145	-131	-117
	50	-113	- 94	- 75	- 56	- 37
	60	- 53	- 29	- 5	+ 19	+ 43
	70	+ 7	+ 36	+ 65	+ 94	+123
	80	+ 67	+101	+135	+169	+203

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