

# SACRAMENTO COUNTY

March - 1965

## Agriculture

Field Crops

• Notes from the Sacramento County Farm Advisor •

### CORN PRODUCTION

Soil Requirements: Fertile, fairly deep and well-drained soils of organic or mineral type. Texture can range from sandy loam to clay.

Planting Dates: April 10 to May 20

Harvest Dates: October 1 to November 15

Varieties: Have been 4-way cross hybrids. Superior performance of single cross hybrids the past two years is causing rapid change. Ultimate balance among 4-way, 3-way, and single crosses is unknown.

Seeding Rate: 10-15 lbs./acre depending on seed size, seed drop is usually 6-8 ins. in the row resulting in stands of 18,000 to 24,000 plants/acre.

Fertilizer Requirement: Organic soil, 10-20 lbs. N with 13-26 lbs. P per acre (30-60 lbs.  $P_2O_5$ ) under or 2 ins. to one side of seed at planting, wet soil increases need for N; Mineral soil, same starter fertilizer plus 150-225 lbs. of N pre-fertilized or sidedressed.

Irrigation:  $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$  acre feet of water. On peat, sub-irrigate 3 times; on mineral soil, 5-8 irrigations.

Weed Control: Timely cultivation for watergrass and broadleaved species. 2,4-D for escaped broadleaves. Atrazine pre-emergence or early post-emergence now recommended but not yet fitted into our growing methods.

Insect Control: Mites, 1 lb. Kelthane when plants 3-4 ft. tall; aphids, natural enemies, insecticides not normally used.

### Disease Control

\*Root and Stalk Rot--avoid plant stress, use adapted varieties.

\*Fusarium Ear Rot--avoid irrigation during calm, hot, high humidity; weather during milk and dough stage; use adapted varieties.

\*Head Smut--provide favorable seed bed conditions, use adapted varieties, rotation.

\*Boil Smut--provide favorable growing conditions, use adapted varieties, rotation.

### New Developments

\*Closer row spacing allowing higher plant population and weed suppression.

\*Potassium fertilizer need found in some Delta fields.

\*Appearance of sugar cane mosaic virus in the Delta.

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UC Cooperative Extension

TL:ejr

**SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE CORN ON MINERAL SOIL**

Sacramento County, March, 1965

Yield: 7000 Lbs.  
 Price: \$ 2.50 per cwt.  
 Gross: \$175.00

Labor  
 Common: \$1.50  
 Skilled: \$1.75

Operation	Date	Hours Per Acre	Cash and Labor Costs per Acre				
			Labor	Fuel & Repairs	Materials Kind & Quan. Cost	Total	
<b>Cultural</b>							
Disk 2X	Aug-Nov	.4	\$ .70	\$ .95		\$ 1.65	
Plow	Nov-Dec	.3	.55	.80		1.33	
Landplane 2X	Feb-Apr	.6	1.05	1.50		2.55	
Disk 2X	Mar-Apr	.4	.70	.95		1.65	
Pre-Fert.	Apr	.2	.35	.19	125# N @ 9¢ Equipment	\$11.25 .50	12.29
Float	Apr-May	.2	.35	.20		.55	
Plant & Fert.					Seed 15# @ .40	6.00	
Insecticide	Apr-May	.6	1.05	1.24	160# 6-24-0 @ \$3.75 cwt	6.00	
					1# Aldrin @ \$2.75	2.75	17.04
Cultivate 5X	May-Jul	1.2	2.10	1.74			3.84
Sidedress Fert.	June	.3	.53	.41	75# N @ 13.6¢	10.20	11.14
Irrigate 6X	Jn-Aug	3.5	5.25	1.00	3 ac ft @ \$3.50	10.50	16.75
Weed Spray ¼ Acreage	Jn-Jul	Contr.			¼ of 225 ac	.56	.56
Miticide	Jn-Jul	Contr.			1# Kelthane Application	4.00 2.50	6.50
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS</b>			<b>\$12.61</b>	<b>\$8.98</b>		<b>\$54.26</b>	<b>\$ 75.85</b>
<b>Harvest</b>							
Harv. 4 rows	Sep-Nov	.5	\$ .88	\$2.15			\$ 3.03
Haul	Sep-Nov	Contr.			3½ tons @ \$2.00	\$ 7.00	\$ 7.00
Dry	Sep-Nov				3½ tons @ \$1.75	6.13	6.13
<b>TOTAL HARVEST COSTS</b>						<b>\$13.13</b>	<b>\$ 16.16</b>
<b>Cash overhead</b>							
Misc., ofc., etc.			5% of above costs				\$ 4.60
Taxes on equip.							1.00
Rent ¼ of gross							43.75
<b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</b>							<b>\$ 49.35</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH COST</b>							<b>\$141.36</b>
Management 5% of gross							\$ 8.75
Depreciation of interest on \$106,000 investment in equipment for 700 acres \$151.00 per acre, 10 year life (\$15.10), 6% interest (\$4.53)							\$ 19.63
<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</b>							<b>\$169.74</b>
COST PER CWT @ 70 cwt yield							\$ 2.42