

sudangrass hay  
sample costs  
and  
production



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

Cost Data Sheet No. 8

SUDANGRASS HAY--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--5.0 ton per acre.

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR*		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
<b>LAND PREPARATION</b>						
Disc 2x	8.00					\$ 16.00
Fertilize	7.50	100# N NH <sub>3</sub>	17.00			24.50
Border	7.50					7.50
Float 2x	7.50					15.00
<b>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION</b>						<b>\$ 63.00</b>
<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>						
Plant	12.00	Seed 30# @ 38¢/lb.	11.40			\$ 23.40
Irrigate 8x		3.5 ac/ft	26.25	4	22.00*	48.25
Fertilize		100# N water run @ 17¢ lb.				17.00
<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>						<b>\$ 88.65</b>
<b>GROWING PERIOD &amp; LAND PREPARATION COSTS</b>						<b>\$ 151.65</b>
Land Rent (net)						80.00
Cash Overhead--10% of preharvest costs & land rent						23.17
<b>TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS</b>						<b>\$ 254.82</b>
<b>HARVEST COSTS</b>						
Swather 2x	11.00					\$ 22.00
Rake 2x	5.50					11.00
Bale (5.0 tons)	10.50/ton					52.50
Haul & Stack	0.25/bale					21.25
<b>TOTAL HARVEST COSTS</b>						<b>\$ 106.75</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL HAY</b>						<b>\$ 361.57</b>

Cost per ton @ 5 tons = \$72.31\*\*

\* Includes shovel labor, miscellaneous tractor work.

\*\* Additional cost per unit weight can be calculated by recalculating cost based on weight or number of harvest.

GENERAL INFORMATION: The average yields for Sudangrass hay during the past five years has ranged from 4.5 to 5.5 tons per acre with an average selling price of \$44.00 to \$52.00 per ton. The average yield and value for Sudangrass during the last five years are given below:

YEAR	ACRES	YIELD/ACRE (TONS)	VALUE/TON
1977	6600	4.5	\$ 45.00
1978	11800	5.0	52.00
1979	24400	5.5	44.00
1980	20500	5.0	52.00
1981	16700	5.5	45.00

SOIL PREPARATION: A uniform seed bed is necessary to obtain a good stand of Sudan grass. High spots in the field cause an uneven germination and poor stands result. Low spots in the field will scald out, decreasing the stand population considerably.

PLANTING RATES, DATES AND VARIETIES: Sudangrass should be planted with 20 to 40 pounds of seed per acre. Sudangrass may be planted from March to June with a drill or broadcaster. The variety Piper has always performed well in Imperial Valley. There are also a number of other commercial varieties available.

FERTILIZATION: Apply 50 to 100 lbs. of nitrogen as NH<sub>3</sub> preplant. Apply 80 to 100 lbs. of nitrogen after the first hay crop is cut. Later applications of nitrogen may be applied in the irrigation water if necessary.

IRRIGATION: Sudangrass requires a lot of moisture but will scald out during the hot summer days if water is left on for a long period of time or if drainage is poor. Damage is more likely to occur when irrigation water is applied just after the hay has been taken off. Approximately eight irrigations are applied during the growing season.

## WEED CONTROL

Weed control is not normally necessary in Sudangrass production. However, 2,4-D gives excellent control of broadleaf plants if required.

## HARVESTING

Sudangrass may be baled from June to October. Normally, two to three cuttings will be harvested. Sudangrass may sometimes be harvested by pasturing.

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		INCOME ABOVE ALL COSTS					
		Price Per Ton					
		\$ 40.00	50.00	60.00	70.00	80.00	100.00
Tons Per Acre	4	- 187	- 147	- 107	- 67	- 27	+ 53
	5	- 162	- 112	- 62	- 12	+ 38	+ 138
	6	- 136	- 76	- 16	+ 44	+ 104	+ 224

To simplify our information, it is sometimes necessary to use trade names of products or equipment. No endorsement of named products is intended nor is criticism implied of similar products which are not mentioned.

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