CO-VS-55

Farm & Home Advisors Office
1720 So. Maple Ave.
Fresno, Calif. (Phone 3-2284)

HYBRID CORN

Soil: Well drained, fertile soils are best for corn production. Sandy soils are less desirable as they dry out rapidly and are usually low in fertility. Alkali soils are not recommended for corn.

Varieties: There are several varieties of hybrid corn that produce well in this area. Listed below are a few of these, there are others that probably produce equally as well.

For planting in April	For planting in June
Pioneer 302 or 505 (white)	Pfister 347
DeKalb 1002 or 1022	Ferry Morse Grain
Pfister 381 or 383	Pioneer 352
Northrup King KY7	Northrup King K3A or KR2

Cultural Practices: Planting can begin in the middle of March until around the first of July. In general the more of the growing season that is used, the higher the yield will be, thus favoring an early planting.

In fertile soils plants spaced 8 to 10 inches apart and planted in 38 to 40 inch rows will usually give maximum yields. About 10 to 12 pounds of seed corn per acre will be required to obtain a proper plant population. A depth of planting of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches is usually the most desirable. Thinning is not necessary.

Fertilization: Corn is a heavy user of nitrogen. An application of 100 lbs. of actual nitrogen to the acre is recommended on medium textured soils. Up to 150 lbs. may be needed on sandy soils.

Irrigation: Corn requires about $2\frac{1}{2}$ acre-foot of water. The most critical time for moisture is during tasseling and silking.

Harvesting: Field corn is harvested for grain by mechanical pickers usually on a custom basis. Some pickers shell the corn in the field while others only harvest the ears and the corn is shelled later.

Corn may be shelled when the moisture content is 20 percent but it should not have more than 14 percent moisture for safe storage.

January 1955

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WHAT WILL IT COST TO GROW FIELD CORN IN FRESNO COUNTY

Based on a yield of 5,000 lbs. per acre - single crop
Labor at $ .90 per hr., 40 h.p. tractor at $2.50, light tractor at $1.20

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	Sample Costs Per Acre	Sample Costs Per Cwt.	My Cost Per Acre	My Cost Per Cwt.
HARVEST LABOR & FIELD POWER COSTS:				
Land preparation; discing, etc., 2 hrs. man and 40 h.p. tractor	$ 6.80			
Planting; 2 men, 4 row planter & light tractor, ½ hr.	.75			
Irrigation; 1 pre & 6 crop - 8 man hours	8.20			
Cultivate, furrow & fertilize - man & light tractor 2 hrs.	4.20			
Fertilize; (included in cultivation)	0.00			
Pick & haul in; contract at $10.00 per acre	10.00			
Shelling; contract at $3.00 per ton	7.50			
Misc. labor; 1 man hr. & 1/2 tractor hr.	1.50			
Total Labor & Field Power Cost	38.95	.78		
MATERIAL COSTS:				
Irrigation water; 2½ acre feet (power)	6.25			
Seed; 10 lbs. per acre at 24¢	2.40			
Fertilizer; 100 lbs. nitrogen @ 13¢ lb.	13.00			
Total Material Cost	21.65	.43		
CASH OVERHEAD:				
General expense (5% of labor & materials)	3.76			
County taxes	4.50			
Repairs, insurance, misc. cash costs	2.50			
Total Cash Overhead Cost	10.76	.22		
TOTAL CASH COSTS	71.36	1.43		
DEPRECIATION:				
Irrigation facilities $70 cost - 20 yrs. life	3.50			
Tillage & other equipment $15 cost - 10 yrs. life	1.50			
Total Depreciation Cost	5.00	.10		
INTEREST ON INVESTMENT AT 5%:				
Irrigation facilities, tillage & other equipment at 1/2 original cost $42.50	2.13			
Land at $400	20.00			
Total Interest on Investment	22.13	.44		
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION	98.49	1.97		

Costs may be lower where operator owns the harvesting equipment.

Part of the costs of taxes, depreciation and interest may be charged to other crops where land is double cropped.