

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Agriculture

• Notes from the Sacramento County Farm Advisor •

GRAIN | SORGHUM PRODUCTION

Soil Requirements: The highly productive organic and mineral soils as well as the deeper upland soils.

Planting Dates: Main season - May 10 to June 15; Double crop - June 15 to July 15. Soil temperature at planting depth should be over 65° F.

Harvest Dates: September 15 to December 15.

Varieties: All hybrids, RS 610 has been the standard. It will probably soon be replaced by equal or higher yielding, head smut resistant varieties.

Seeding Rate: Full season - 15-18 lbs./acre; small sized, early maturing varieties for late planting - 18-25 lbs./acre.

Fertilizer Requirement: Organic soil - 13-20 lbs. P per acre (30-45 lbs. P₂O₅). Mineral soil - 100-150 lbs. N pre fertilized. If soil is very P deficient, also use starter fertilizer with N and P.

Irrigation: 2 to 3 acre feet of water. On organic soil sub irrigate. On mineral soil, sprinkle, flood, or furrow irrigate, three to five irrigations needed.

Weed Control: Cultivation two to four times. 2,4-D may or may not be needed for broadleaved weed control. Atrazine is recommended for pre or early post-emergence for both watergrass and broadleaved weeds. Propazine recommended for pre-emergence application.

Insect Control: None normally used, natural predators usually control aphids, but occasionally there is crop damage.

Disease Control: Head Smut - resistant varieties.
Root rot and lodging - avoid moisture stress, especially in salt and alkali areas; use adapted varieties.

New Developments:

Weed control by Atrazine and no cultivation.
Continuous variety improvement.

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SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE GRAIN SORGHUM ON MINERAL SOIL

Sacramento County, March 1965

Yield: 6000 Lbs.
 Price: \$2.15 per cwt.
 Gross: \$129.00

Labor
 Common \$1.50
 Skilled \$1.75

Operation	Date	Hours Per Acre	Cash and Labor Costs per Acre				Total
			Labor	Fuel & Repairs	Materials		
		Kind & Quan.			Cost		
Cultural							
Disk 2X	Sep-Nov	.4	\$.70	\$1.06			\$1.76
Plow	Oct-Nov	.3	.53	.80			1.33
Landplane 2X	Nov-Dec	.6	1.05	1.50			2.55
Furrow & Ditch	Apr-May	.4	.70	.80			1.50
Pre-Irrigate	Apr-May	1.5	2.25		½ ac. ft. @ \$3.50	\$1.75	4.00
Disk 2X	Mar-Jn	.4	.70	1.06			1.76
Pre-fertilize	Apr-May	.2	.35	.19	125# N @ 9¢ Equipment	11.25 .50	12.29
Float	May-Jn	.2	.35	.20			.55
Plant	May-Jn	.2	.35	.69			1.04
Cultivate 3X	Jn-Jul	1.0	1.45	1.45			2.90
Weed Spray ¼ Acreage	July	Contr.			¼ of \$2.25/A	.56	.56
Irrigate 3X	Jn-Aug	2.0	3.00	1.00	1½ ac. ft. @ \$3.50	5.25	9.25
TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS			\$11.43	\$8.75		\$19.31	\$39.49
Harvest							
Harvest	Oct-Nov	.5	.88	\$2.15			\$3.03
Haul	Oct-Nov	Contr.			3 tons @ \$2.00	\$6.00	6.00
Dry 1/5 acreage	Oct-Nov				1/5 of \$2.75/ton	1.65	1.65
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS						\$7.65	\$10.68
Cash Overhead							
Misc., ofc., etc.			5% of above				\$ 2.51
Taxes on equip.							1.00
Rent 1/3 of gross							43.00
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD							\$46.51
TOTAL CASH COST							\$96.68
Management 5% of gross							\$ 6.45
Depreciation and 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
TOTAL COST PER ACRE							\$122.76
COST PER CWT @ 60 cwt yield							\$ 2.05