

sesbania
sample costs
and
production

Agricultural Extension Service
University of California
Imperial County
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Cost Data Sheet No. 25
UC Cooperative Extension

SESBANIA--SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

| ITEMS | SAMPLE COSTS | |
|---|--------------|----------|
| | Per Acre | |
| LAND PREPARATION | | |
| Disc | \$ | 2.00 |
| Border | | 1.00 |
| Disc | | 2.00 |
| Ditch | | .75 |
| TOTAL LAND PREPARATION | | \$ 5.75 |
| CULTURAL LABOR AND FIELD POWER | | |
| Planting (broadcast) | | 2.50 |
| Irrigations 5x | | 5.00 |
| TOTAL CULTURAL | | \$ 7.50 |
| MATERIALS | | |
| Water--2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft. @ \$2 + gate charges | | 5.00 |
| Seed--40 lbs. @ 15¢ | | 6.00 |
| Fertilizer--none | | ---- |
| TOTAL MATERIALS | | \$ 11.00 |
| HARVESTING | | |
| Disc 2x | | 4.00 |
| Miscellaneous | | 1.00 |
| TOTAL HARVESTING | | \$ 5.00 |
| TOTAL ALL COSTS | | \$ 29.25 |

This is strictly a green manure and soil conditioning crop. No other charges such as rent, insurance, etc. should be charged against this cover crop.

The above is a guide.

Your costs may vary somewhat depending on the number of operations.

VALUE

Sesbania is grown, (1) to restore or maintain organic matter in the soil for better water penetration, (2) to control surface salt accumulations (leach out salts) resulting from row crops, (3) to increase the fertility of the land due to fixation of air nitrogen by the legume crop, and (4) to try to rot weed seeds or crop residues.

YIELDS

Green weight of material to be turned under varies considerably due to stand and stage of turning under. From 6 to 15 tons is about the range with 9 to 10 tons being a good crop.

VARIETY & PLANTING

Sesbania is native to this area and Mexico and there is probably only one variety available, so no mix up of seed is to be expected. Seed is usually broadcast before field is irrigated.

CULTURE

Sesbania will normally grow well if weather is hot enough and if field is kept wet enough. Be sure to stop irrigating well ahead of turning crop under to allow crop roots to dry ground out and allow discing. Turn under at start of first bloom to get maximum benefit from nitrogen fixed.

by crop and have rapid decomposition of stalks.

FERTILIZERS

Legume crops can take their nitrogen from the air by means of bacteria on the roots. Use no nitrogen. Some benefit might be expected from phosphate, but ordinarily there will be sufficient carryover from other crops. Inoculation of seed should not be necessary.

IRRIGATION

Much of the value of the crop is due to the frequency of irrigation and the water applied which will leach out surface salt accumulations. Irrigate frequently and, for maximum growth, do not allow to wilt.

INSECT PESTS

Alfalfa caterpillars occasionally attack sesbania in the seedling stage and may cause a reduction in stand. However, in most cases sesbania will outgrow the damage caused by worms and control is unnecessary. It must be remembered, too, that sesbania is not a cash crop and any appreciable return on an investment in insecticides cannot be expected.

HARVESTING

Two methods of turning under are used, (1) disc, (2) plow. Either method is satisfactory, and preference will de-

pend to some extent on what crop
is to follow and how soon.

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