

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

March - 1965

Agriculture

• 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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TL:ejr

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE CORN ON PEAT AND MUCK SOIL

Sacramento County, March, 1965

Yield: 7,000 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		Total
		Kind & Quan.			Cost		
<u>Cultural</u>							
Flood every 3rd year	Aug-Nov	.3	\$.53	\$.75		\$ 1.28	
Disk 2X	Oct-Nov	.4	.70	1.06		1.76	
Plow	Nov-Dec	.3	.53	.80		1.33	
Landplane	Feb-Mar	.6	1.05	1.50		2.55	
Disk 2X	Mar-Apr	.4	.70	1.06		1.76	
Harrow 2X	Apr-May	.2	.35	.30		.65	
Plant, Fert. insecticide	Apr-May	.6	1.05	1.24	Seed 15# @ 40¢ 25 gals. 8-24-0 @ 40¢ 1½# Aldrin @ \$2.75	\$ 6.00 10.00 4.13	22.42
Cultivate 4X	May-Jul	1.0	1.75	1.45		3.20	
Sub-irrig. 3X	Jul-Aug	1.2	2.10	.40	Spud Ditching @ 1800/mile	2.50	5.00
Weed Spray	Jn-Jul	Contr.			2,4-D applied	2.25	2.25
Miticide	Jn-Jul	Contr.			1# Kelthane Application	4.00 2.50	6.50
Drain. Maint.	All Yr.	.1	.15	.15	New ditches & cleaning contr.	2.00	2.30
TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS			\$8.91	\$8.71		\$33.38	\$51.00
<u>Harvest</u>							
Harv. 4 rows	Oct-Nov	.6	\$1.05	\$2.58		\$ 3.63	
Haul	Oct-Nov				3½ tons @ \$2.00	\$7.00	7.00
Dry	Oct-Nov				3½ tons @ \$2.75	9.53	9.63
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS						\$16.63	\$20.26
<u>Cash Overhead</u>							
Misc., ofc., etc.			5% of above costs			\$ 3.56	
Taxes on equip.						1.00	
Rent 1/3 of gross						58.33	
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD						62.89	
TOTAL CASH COST						134.15	
Management 5% of gross						8.75	
Depreciation and interest on \$93,000 investment in equipment for 750 acres \$124.00 per acre, 10 year life (\$12.40), 6% interest (\$3.72)						16.12	
TOTAL COST PER ACRE						\$159.02	
COST PER CWT @ 70 cwt yield						\$ 2.27	