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BARLEY

Sample Costs of Establishing Suggestions on Growing

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A B O U T T H E S E C O S T D A T A - - -

The costs of production in any agricultural enterprise will vary considerably from ranch to ranch. The input and cost data in this booklet are sample costs. They are intended to be used only as educational guides in assisting you to appraise and plan your own crop and livestock program.

These cost data do not represent industry averages.

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SUGGESTINGS ON GROWING BARLEY

By

Roy M. Barnes, Farm Advisor

SOIL REQUIREMENTS:

Barley is adapted to most Kern County soils and is a good crop to grow on alkali land. Barley can also be double cropped with grain sorghum.

VARIETY:

Atlas 68, Numar, Briggs and CM 67 are the varieties recommended for Kern County. Atlas 68 is a variety that should be grown in areas where late spring frosts are likely. Always plant certified seed to be assured purity, high germination, and freedom from weeds.

SEED TREATMENT:

Usually seed is treated by the seed supplier to guard against some smuts and stripe.

PREPARATION OF SOIL AND PLANTING:

On irrigated land, the soil should be worked to be firm--much the same as alfalfa. Pre-irrigation is always best to insure ample moisture during germination and through the

COST ANALYSIS WORK SHEET

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE BARLEY IN KERN COUNTY - (Single Crop) - 1970

Based on man labor at \$1.90 and \$2.10 per hour; including compensation insurance and Social Security;
 Medium wheel tractor cash cost per hour \$1.40; Depreciation 70¢; Interest 30¢

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Operation	Hours Per Acre	Cash and Labor Cost Per Acre			Sample Costs	My Costs
		Labor	Fuel and Repairs- Equipment	Material and Other Costs		
Cultural:						
Land preparation	2.0	\$ 4.20	\$ 2.80		\$ 7.00	
Plant	.4	.84	.56	Seed: 90 lbs. @ \$5.00	5.90	
Irrigate: 1 pre, 2 crop	4.0	7.60	2.50	Water: 1 1/2 ft. @ \$6.00	19.10	
Fertilize		.42	.28	Nitrogen: 60 lbs. @ 10¢	6.70	
Taxes					13.80	
Miscellaneous overhead		2.74	2.56		8.70	
Total Cultural Costs		\$15.80	\$ 8.70	\$36.70	\$ 61.20	
Harvest:						
Combine			Contract \$6.00 + 10¢/cwt.	\$10.00	\$ 10.00	
Haul			2 Tons @ \$2.00	4.00	4.00	
Total Harvest Costs					\$ 14.00	
Total Cash and Labor Costs					\$ 75.20	
		Cash and Labor Cost per Cwt. @ 4,000 lbs. Yield			(\$ 1.88)	
Costs at Varying Yields		Investment		Annual Cost		
Pounds Per Acre	Total Cost Per Cwt.	Per Acre	Depreciation	Interest 7%		
2,000	\$7.71	Land \$800.00	\$56.00			
3,000	5.21	Irrigation System 200.00	15.00	7.00		
4,000	3.96	Tractor 3 hrs. Equipment 15.00	2.10	.90		
5,000	3.20		1.50	.52		
		Total	\$18.60	\$64.42		\$ 83.02
		TOTAL COST PER ACRE			\$158.22	
		TOTAL COST PER CWT. @ 4,000 LBS. YIELD			\$ 3.96	

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stooling period. The same preparation is made to the land which is non-irrigated, except planting usually follows one year of summer fallow. In either case, planting may be done with a grain drill or broadcast.

PLANTING RATE:

On irrigated land; early planting close drilled, 80 to 90 lbs. per acre is sufficient. On irrigated land; late planting close drilled, 90 to 100 lbs. per acre. On non-irrigated land; close drilled, 50 lbs. per acre. Usually one-fourth more seed is required when broadcast.

PLANTING TIME:

Between November 15, and December 15, is the best time to seed.

PLANTING DEPTH:

The depth of planting should be governed by type of soil and soil moisture. In most cases two inches are sufficient.

FERTILIZATION:

Unless barley is to follow alfalfa or other truck crops where there is a large amount of nitrogen left in the soil, nitrogen fertilizer is needed in most soils in the county to produce maximum yields. Sixty pounds of nitrogen (300 lbs. of ammonium sulfate or its equivalent) are recommended. If phosphate is

now being used on other crops in the area, then 80 lbs. of actual phosphate (200 lbs. treble super phosphate) would be sufficient.

IRRIGATION:

There are three times when adequate moisture is important for cereal grains.

1. When plants are about 6 inches tall. At this stage they are completing tillering and starting elongation. Also, at this time, the total number of heads and the number of potential florets per head is being determined.
2. A second critical period is just as the plants are in the boot and beginning to emerge from the boot. The flowering begins. If moisture is short at this stage, the plant greatly reduces the number of florets pollinated, thus adjusting production to the current outlook for moisture.
3. If the soil moisture is near critical level at blooming and is not improved shortly thereafter, it is possible there would not be enough moisture to fill the seed. This could result in reduction in quality from shriveled seed.

HARVESTING:

Grain can be safely stored when the moisture content reaches 15% or under.

YIELDS:

With proper care, a yield of 4,000 pounds or better per acre may be obtained.