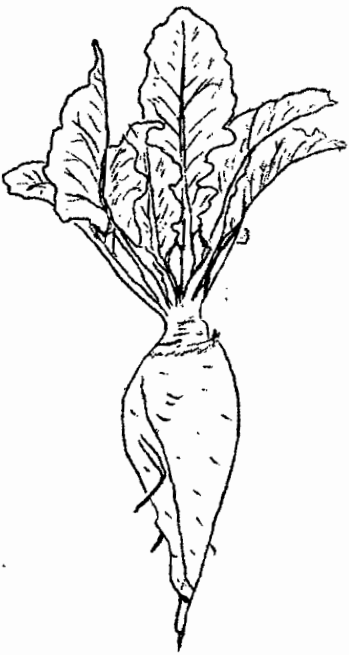
SG-SI-72

sugar beets

sample costs and production



Agricultural Extension Service
University of California
Imperial County
Court House, El Centro

Cost Data Sheet No. 10

SUGAR BEETS--SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Labor at $2.25 per hour ($2.00 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, and fringe benefits).

Yield - 24 tons per acre bases (Five year average yield - 21.8 tons per acre).

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS Type	MATERIALS Cost	HAND LABOR Hours	HAND LABOR Dollars	SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
LAND PREPARATION						
Plow or subsoil	$9.00					$ 9.00
Disc 2x	2.50					5.00
Build & break borders	2.00					2.00
Flood		water .9 ac ft	2.10	1.0	2.25	4.35
Disc 2x	2.50					5.00
Fertilize	1.25	300# 11-48-0	12.75			14.00
Fertilize	1.25	100# $N-NH_3$	6.00			7.25
Float	2.00					2.00
List	3.50					3.50
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						$52.10
GROWING PERIOD						
Incorporate & plant	10.00	herbicide seed 2# raw	8.00 4.00			22.00
Cultivate	3.00					3.00
Thin	12.00					12.00
Cultivate 2x	3.00					6.00
Fertilize 2x	1.50	80# N (2x)	9.60			12.60
Weed Control				7.8	17.55	17.55
Insect control 4x	1.75	insecticide	9.00			16.00
Irrigate 12x		water 5 ft	11.50	6.3	14.18	25.68
GROWING PERIOD						$114.83
GROWING PERIOD AND LAND PREPARATION						$166.93
Land Rent						65.00
Cash Overhead - 15% of preharvest costs and land rent						34.79
TOTAL PREHARVEST COST						$266.72
HARVEST COSTS						
Dig	1.35 per ton @ 24 tons per acre					32.40
Haul*	1.00 per ton @ 24 tons per acre plus 5¢/ton mile (average 50¢ per ton mileage charge)					36.00
TOTAL ALL COSTS						335.12

Cost per ton = $13.96

*Railroad freight, cost not included.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The average yields for sugar beets during the last five years have ranged from 17.50 to 26.3 tons per acre. The overall average for the 5 year period was 21.8 tons per acre. The average selling price has ranged from $16.03 to $18.30 per ton.

SEED BED PREPARATION

Costs based in the guide line on flat pre-irrigation due to slightly lower costs, tendency towards lowering salinity levels, and usually better soil condition in the seed bed.

SEEDING RATES

A slightly greater amount of seed is generally used in early plantings due to difficulty in getting stands in the extremely hot weather.

PLANTING DATES

The usual planting season begins in September and continues through October.

VARIETIES

The variety USH 9 has good virus yellows tolerance and is a good yielder.

FERTILIZATION

Phosphate--broadcast before listing.

Nitrogen--Apply 1/3 of required amount with phosphate preplant, 1/3 at thinning and final 1/3 before mid-December. Late applications of nitrogen will reduce sugar percentage and purity.

IRRIGATION

Irrigation is by furrows. The crop is "irrigated up" initially and may require "watering back" within four or five days to get a stand. Never allow the crop to wilt or suffer from shortage of water. Ten to 20 irrigations may be required. Last irrigation should be applied at least 30 days prior to harvest.

WEED CONTROL

Most growers are using herbicides for weed control in sugar beets. The preemergence herbicides are used by most growers. Consult Weed Control Recommendations - Imperial County or the Weed Control Farm Advisor for latest information.

PESTS AND DISEASES

Pest populations vary from year to year and cost very accordingly. A A number of insects and diseases may be a problem during the growing season. Growers planting extremely early should exercise all caution against damage by inspecting fields often and carefully. Crickets, flea beetles and army worms normally occur as seedling pests and are especially damaging in early plantings. From January to March the green peach aphid is a primary pest. Spider mites and leafhoppers occur as late season pests. Consult Pest Control Recommendations - Imperial County

Nematodes are continuing to be a major pest. Growers should carefully clean <u>all</u> machinery moving into beet fields. Crop rotation is the only control presently feasible.

Prepared by
Imperial County
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Staff
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