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Imperial County
 University of California
 Extension Service
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SESBANIA--1955

WHAT DOES IT COST YOU TO GROW SESBANIA?

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS	YOUR COSTS
	Per A.	Per A.
LAND PREPARATION		
Disc 1x	1.50	
Border	.50	
Disc 1x	1.50	
Ditch & misc.	1.00	
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION	4.50	
CULTURAL LABOR & FIELD POWER		
Planting (broadcast)	1.00	
Irrigations (8-10)	4.50	
TOTAL CULTURAL	5.50	
MATERIALS		
Water--2½ ft. @ \$1.75 + gate charges	4.50	
Seed--40 lbs. @ 8½¢	3.40	
Fertilizer--none	----	
TOTAL MATERIALS	7.90	
HARVESTING		
Mow	1.50	
Disc 2x	3.00	
Miscellaneous	1.00	
TOTAL HARVESTING	5.50	
TOTAL ALL COSTS	23.40	

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.

Estimate your own costs by filling in the last column based on costs of operations and material that would be required on your land.

SEE REVERSE SIDE

SESBANIA
(A native legume)

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.

ACREAGE: Up to 10,000 acres are normally planted during the hot summer period June to September.

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 carry over 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. If necessary, these worms may be controlled by a light application of DDT either in spray or dust form. 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) mow and disc; 2) plow. Either method is satisfactory and preference will depend to some extent on what crop is to follow and how soon.

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