

Farm & Home Advisors Office
1720 So. Maple Ave.
Fresno, California (Phone 3-2284)

GRAIN SORGHUM

Soils: Grain sorghums can be grown on almost any soil type that will accept cultivation. Very sandy soils are undesirable. Soils high in alkali are objectionable, but the grain sorghums are more resistant to alkali than most field crops.

Seeding: Grain sorghum should not be planted until the ground is definitely warm. In Fresno County seeding dates are from April 1, to about July 1. The most common method of planting is to use a two-row corn or bean planter equipped with sorghum seed plates.

The distance between rows can vary between 26 to 38 inches. Four to 6 pounds of seed drilled is adequate. Use certified seed. Milo is one crop where selection of good quality seed is most important.

Irrigation: Both the furrow and check flooding methods are used for irrigating milo. If the land is a sandy loam and was pre-irrigated 2 or 3 crop irrigations may be necessary. Avoid over irrigation. Do not irrigate too late in the season or after heads have appeared. If too much moisture is present late in the season suckering will start and difficulty with harvest occurs.

Fertilization: Sixty pounds of nitrogen is the average amount of fertilizer applied per acre to give optimum yields. This will vary with soil types and cropping history of the land.

Harvesting: The grain crop should not be harvested until the majority of the heads are fully mature. The crop can be harvested with a regular grain combine. Maximum moisture content for proper storage in sacks or bulk is 13%.

January 1955

Jun/1955

WHAT WILL IT COST TO GROW GRAIN SORGHUM IN FRESNO COUNTY

Based on 4,000 yield - single crop. Labor at .90
Heavy tractor at \$2.50; Medium tractor at \$1.60

	<u>Sample Costs</u>		<u>My Costs</u>	
	<u>Per</u>	<u>Per</u>	<u>Per</u>	<u>Per</u>
	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Gwt.</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Gwt.</u>
<u>LABOR COSTS:</u>				
Prepare land - 1 3/4 hrs., man & heavy tractor		\$ 5.95		
Plant - 1/4 hr., 2 men & medium tractor		.85		
Irrigate - 4 times, 4 man hours		3.60		
Cultivate & furrow - 1 1/2 hrs., man & medium tractor		3.75		
Harvesting - contract \$7.00 + sacking \$1.50		8.50	.21	
Hauling		3.70	.09	
Miscellaneous - 1 man & 1 medium tractor hour		2.50		
<u>Total Labor & Field Power</u>		<u>28.85</u>	<u>.72</u>	
<u>MATERIAL COSTS:</u>				
Irrigation water 2 1/2 ac. ft.		7.50		
Fertilizer - 60# N O 13¢		7.80		
Seed - 5#: certified and treated @ 9 1/2¢		.48		
<u>Total Material Cost</u>		<u>15.78</u>	<u>.39</u>	
<u>CASH OVERHEAD COSTS:</u>				
General expense @ 5% labor & material cost		2.84		
County taxes		4.50		
Repairs, insurance, misc. cash costs		2.50		
<u>Total Cash Overhead Cost</u>		<u>9.84</u>	<u>.25</u>	
<u>Total Cash Costs</u>		<u>54.47</u>	<u>1.36</u>	
<u>DEPRECIATION:</u>				
Irrigation facilities - \$70 cost, 20 yr. life		3.50		
Tillage & other equip. \$15 cost, 10 yr. life		1.50		
<u>Total depreciation</u>		<u>5.00</u>	<u>.13</u>	
<u>INTEREST ON INVESTMENT AT 5%:</u>				
Irrigation facilities, tillage equipment, etc. at 1/3 original cost		2.13		
Land at \$400		20.00		
<u>Total Interest on Investment</u>		<u>22.13</u>	<u>.55</u>	
<u>TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION</u>		<u>81.60</u>	<u>2.04</u>	