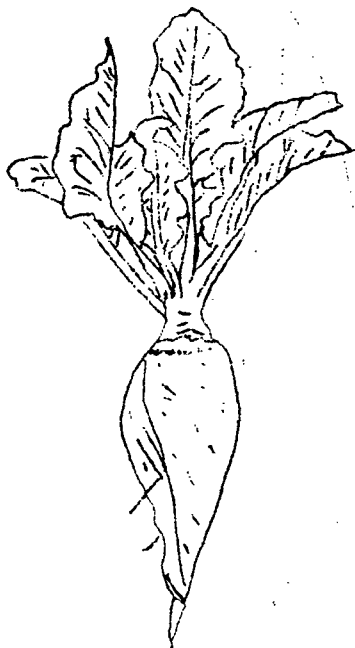


sugar beets  
sample costs  
and  
production



Cooperative Extension  
University of California  
Imperial County  
Court House, El Centro

Cost Data Sheet No. 10

SUGAR BEETS--PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS--1982-1983

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Labor at \$5.50 per hour (\$4.30 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, and fringe benefits).

Yield--26.0 tons per acre.

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
<b>LAND PREPARATION</b>						
Plow or subsoil	23.50					\$ 23.50
Disc 2x	8.00					16.00
Build & break borders	12.00					12.00
Flood		Water .9 ac/ft	6.75	2	11.00 <sup>d/</sup>	17.75
Disc 2x	8.00					16.00
Fertilize	6.00	300# 11-43-0	39.00			45.00
Float	7.50					7.50
List	10.00					10.00
<b>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION</b>						<b>\$ 147.75</b>

**GROWING PERIOD**

Incorporate	18.00	Herbicide Ro-Neet	12.50			30.50
Plant & Shape	14.50	Seed 10# coated	15.00			29.50
Weed Control	5.50	Herbicide	21.00			26.50 <sup>a/</sup>
Thin	27.00	Machine (synchronous thinner) or handthin				27.00
Cultivate 3x	10.00					30.00
Fertilize 2x	10.00	160# N	54.21			74.21
Weed Control				11	60.50	60.50 <sup>b/</sup>
Pest Control 6x <sup>c/</sup>	3.75	Pesticide	69.00			91.50
Irrigate 12x <sup>c/</sup>		Water 7 ac/ft	52.50	8	44.00	96.50
<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>						<b>\$ 466.21</b>

**GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREPARATION COSTS**

613.96

Land Rent (gross)

160.00

Cash Overhead--10% of preharvest costs & land rent

77.40

**TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS**

**\$ 851.36**

**HARVEST COSTS**

Dig	2.35 per ton @ 26.0 tons per acre	61.10
Haul	2.54 per clean ton @ 26.0 tons per acre for an 8-mile average haul and 7¢/ton mile	66.10
Railroad freight <sup>e/</sup>	4.30 per clean ton @ 26.0 tons per acre	111.80
<b>HARVEST &amp; RAIL FREIGHT COST</b>		<b>\$1,090.36</b>

Cost per ton for a 26.0 ton yield = \$41.94 per ton

a/ Post application of either Chem Hoe® or Betanal® may be needed.

b/ Layby application may be needed of Eptam® or hand weeding.

c/ If sprinklers are used for germinating crop, additional cost is \$125.00/acre.

d/ Includes shovel labor, pipe setting and miscellaneous tractor work.

e/ Union and Spreckles Sugar Companies have freight charges.

GENERAL INFORMATION: The average yield, acreage and value for sugar beets during the last five years are given below:

YEAR	ACRES	YIELD/ACRE (TONS)	VALUE/TON
1977	49500	21.67	\$ 24.62
1978	34000	25.07	25.86
1979	45000	25.15	29.65
1980	37000	26.90	55.00
1981	39500	28.3	41.08

SEED BED PREPARATION: Costs based in the guideline 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 planting season begins August 20 and continues through October.

## VARIETIES

The varieties USH 11 or 10 are recommended because of their good virus yellows tolerance and yield ability. Other varieties may be used occasionally on a limited basis.

## 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

Consult weed control Farm Advisor for list of registered and adapted chemicals.

## PESTS AND DISEASES

Pest populations vary from year to year and costs vary accordingly. 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 armyworms 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 Farm Advisor for list of registered and adapted chemicals.

Nematodes can be a problem. Growers should carefully clean all nematode infested machinery moving into beet fields. Crop rotation is the best control.

## INCOME ABOVE ALL COSTS

Tons Per Acre

20	23	26	29	32	35
Estimated					
Price/Ton					
\$-255 -166 -76 +13 +103 +192					

\$39 at 16%  
Sugar \*

\* May 1982 estimates - subject to change so check the current prices.

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Revised May 1982

To simplify our information, it is sometimes necessary to use trade names of products or equipment. No endorsement of named products is intended nor is criticism implied of similar products which are not mentioned.

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