

FARM

management

BRIEFS

ESTABLISH ALFALFA STAND

Sutter

County

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

APRIL 1956

UC Cooperative Extension

SAMPLE COSTS TO ESTABLISH ALFALFA STAND

YIELD - OPERATION	HOURS PER ACRE	CASH AND LABOR COST PER ACRE				MY COSTS	
		LABOR	TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT	MATERIALS, ETC.	TOTAL	PER ACRE	TOTAL FOR ACRES
SEED BED PREPARATION					\$		
PLOW	.5	.65	.85		1.50		
DISK	.3	.40	.40		.80		
LANDPLANE	1.0	1.25	1.75		3.00		
RIDGE	.2	.25	.25		.50		
HARROW	.1	.15	.10		.25		
PRE-IRRIGATE	1.0	1.00		WATER 4" 1.20	2.20		
HARROW	.1	.15	.10		.25		
PLANT	.5	.65	.65	SEED 20# 7.00	8.30		
MISC.		1.25	.65	2.30	4.20		
TOTAL		5.75	4.75	10.50	21.00		

DATE OF PLANTING - PREFERABLY IN THE FALL - BEFORE OCTOBER 15TH. FOR SPRING PLANTING, AS SOON AFTER FEBRUARY 1ST AS IS POSSIBLE.

RATE OF SEEDING - 10 - 20 POUNDS PER ACRE.

VARIETY - "CALIVERDE" HAS HIGHEST YIELD POTENTIAL.

FERTILIZATION - NONE GENERALLY RECOMMENDED. (SOME PLANTINGS HAVE RESPONDED TO APPLICATIONS OF 400 POUNDS OF GYPSUM PER ACRE.)

SPOTTED ALFALFA APHID - ONE APHID PER PLANT CAN KILL A SEEDLING STAND. THEREFORE, SPRAY WHEN YOU FIRST NOTICE THEM. INSPECT YOUNG STANDS EVERY DAY.

STAGE OF CUTTING - 1/10TH BLOOM STAGE IS BEST - WHEN SOME COLOR IS PRESENT GENERALLY THROUGHOUT THE FIELD.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE: "THE SPOTTED ALFALFA APHID" AND "ALFALFA PRODUCTION IN CALIFORNIA"

E. H. WOOD, JR. - A. DOYLE REED

FARM MANAGEMENT BRIEFS can help you in:

- * Analyzing the various enterprises which may best fit your farm.
- * Budgeting for cash operating expenses.

PRACTICES INVOLVED IN CROP PRODUCTION ARE VARIABLE WITHIN THE COUNTY DUE TO DIFFERENCES IN SIZE OF OPERATIONS SOIL TYPES, AND GROWER'S PREFERENCE.

THE COSTS IN THE TABLE ARE BASED ON TYPICAL OPERATIONS FOR GOOD FARMING PRACTICES. THE PRODUCTION COSTS AND YIELDS LISTED IN THIS LEAFLET AND OTHERS OF THIS SERIES ARE NOT INTENDED TO REPRESENT THE *averages* FOR SUTTER COUNTY.

The greatest single factor in determining your cost of production per unit is *YIELD*. You may increase your efficiency by:

- * Planting the adapted variety on soils suitable for high production.
- * Avoid unnecessary operations in seed bed preparation.
- * Avoid overfertilizing as well as underfertilizing the crop.
- * Plan your operations to meet the most favorable time in planting and harvesting. This will help insure maximum yields.