

SUGAR BEETS--SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Hand labor at \$1.90 per hour (\$1.50 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, and fringe benefits).

Based on yield of 22 tons per acre.

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
<b>LAND PREPARATION</b>						
Plow or subsoil	8.00					8.00
Disc 2x	2.00					4.00
Build & break borders	1.00					1.00
Flood		water .9 ac ft	1.80	1.0	2.00	3.80
Disc 2x	2.00					4.00
Fertilize	1.00	11-48-0 (300#)	14.00			15.00
Fertilize	1.00	100# N (NH <sub>3</sub> )	6.00			7.00
Float	1.00					1.00
List	3.00					3.00
<b>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION</b>						<b>46.80</b>
<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>						
Incorporate & plant	10.00	herbicide	8.00			19.75
		seed 2# raw	1.75			
Cultivate & block	8.00					8.00
Cultivate 2x	3.00					6.00
Fertilize 2x	3.00	80# N (2x)	9.60			12.60
Weed Control				7.8	15.00	15.00
Insect Control 4x	1.50	insecticide	12.00			18.00
Irrigate 10x		water 5 ft.	10.00	5.2	10.00	20.00
<b>TOTAL GROWING PERIOD</b>						<b>99.35</b>
<b>HARVEST COSTS</b>						
Dig	1.30 per ton @ 22 tons per acre					28.60
Haul	.90 per ton @ 22 tons per acre					20.90
<b>TOTAL HARVEST COST</b>						<b>49.50</b>
Land rent						65.00
Cash overhead 15% of above						39.09
<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>						<b>\$299.74</b>

Cost per ton = \$13.62

**YIELDS**

Yields will vary from about 15 to 30 tons with the average about 22 tons.

**PLANTING DATES**

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

**SEED BED PREPARATION**

Costs based in this 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.

**VARIETIES**

A number of varieties are available through sugar companies.

**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.

## FERTILIZATION

Phosphate--broadcast before listing.

Nitrogen--apply 1/3 of required amount with P 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.

## HARVESTING

Harvesting is completely mechanized.

## PESTS AND DISEASES

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.

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

Contact your Farm Advisors' Office for specific insect recommendations.

## WEED CONTROL

Most growers are using herbicides for weed control in sugar beets. The pre-emergence herbicide must be incorporated by a power driven incorporator. Lay by herbicides are generally surface applied.

# sugar beets sample costs and production



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