

WHAT WILL IT COST TO GROW IRRIGATED BARLEY IN FRESNO COUNTY (WEST SIDE)

Based on a yield of 3,000 lbs. per acre - bulk handled
 Labor at \$.90 per hr.; heavy tractor at \$2.50; light tractor \$1.20

Sample Costs		My Costs	
Per Acre	Per Cwt.	Per Acre	Per Cwt.

LABOR AND FIELD POWER COST:

Prepare land; chisel, land plane, harrow, float, etc. man & heavy tractor - 1 3/4 hrs.	\$ 5.95	
Drill; man & medium light tractor 1/4 hr.	.53	
Irrigate; 1 pre & 1 crop, 3 man hours	2.70	
Fertilizing; applied in water	0.00	
Combine; 1 man & self-propelled harvester, 3/4 hr. including operating costs of harvester	3.10	
Haul to farm storage; man & truck	1.50	
Total Labor & Field Power Cost	13.83	.46

MATERIAL COSTS:

Irrigation water; 1 1/2 ac. ft. @ \$5.00	7.50	
Seed; 70 lbs. @ \$3.50	2.45	
Fertilizer; 40 lbs. nitrogen at 13¢	5.20	
Total Material Cost	15.15	.51

CASH OVERHEAD COSTS:

General expense at 5% of labor & material cost	1.34	
County taxes; including 40% of fallow year	2.24	
Repairs (other than tractors & trucks), insurance, etc.	3.50	
Total Cash Overhead Cost	7.08	.24

TOTAL CASH & LABOR COST

36.06 1.21

DEPRECIATION:

Irrigation facilities; barley share including some overhaul costs	4.50	
Harvester; \$14 cost - 10 yrs. life	1.40	
Tillage & other equipment; \$15 cost - 10 yrs. life	1.50	
Total Depreciation	7.40	.25

INTEREST ON INVESTMENT AT 5%:

Irrigation facilities, harvesting, tillage, etc. equipment at 1/2 original cost \$33.50	1.68	
Land at \$150 - crop yr. plus 40% fallow yr. = \$210	10.50	
Total Interest on Investment	12.18	.40

TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION

55.64 1.86

The above costs are based upon barley as a winter crop once in 3 years in rotation with a summer crop and a fallow crop year.

Cover cropping and weed spraying costs would be in addition to those shown above. Also bulk storage and warehousing costs are not included.

BARLEY

Soils: Barley is well adapted to a wide range of soils. As a winter crop it can tolerate more alkali than most summer grown crops.

Varieties: California Mariout is one of the highest yielders for Fresno County both for dryland farming or under irrigation. It matures a week or two ahead of other barley varieties, therefore, often escapes drought injury. Atlas 46 and Arivat are the two other top yielding varieties for this area.

Seeding: Barley is usually planted somewhere between the first of November until the 15th of December. Later planting is not advisable as yields can be reduced from Yellow Dwarf Virus infection in the spring. Rates of seeding vary between 70 to 100 lbs. per acre. Seed should be treated to prevent losses from barley smut or stripe.

Fertilization: Barley on irrigated land requires 40 to 60 pounds of N to give maximum yields on the average. On non-irrigated land over 10 units of nitrogen is not recommended. In some areas there is a response to phosphorus.

Harvesting: Harvesting is done by direct combining. Arrangements should be made in advance for combining if the operation is to be done by custom harvestors.

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