

BERMUDAGRASS SEED
PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS
1991-1992

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Mechanical operations at custom rates. Labor at \$5.75 per hour (\$4.50 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance and fringe benefits).

Yield--650 pounds seed, double cropped, unhulled.

OPERATION	CUSTOM	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		COSTS Per Acre
	RATE	Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
LAND PREPARATION						
Plow or Subsoil	24.75					24.75
Disc 2x	9.50					19.00
Build & Break borders	15.00					15.00
Flood		Water .8 ac ft	9.20	1	5.75	14.95
Disc 2x	9.50					19.00
Fertilize	8.00	75# NH3 @ .15/lb	11.25			19.25
Landplane 2x	10.00					20.00
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION COSTS						131.95
COST OF ESTABLISHMENT						
Plant (flat)	12.00	Seed 15# @ \$1.50/#	22.50			34.50
Sprinkler irrigate						120.00
Irrigate 2x		Water .8 ac ft	9.20	1	5.75	14.95
COST OF ESTABLISHMENT						169.45
TOTAL COST OF STAND ESTABLISHMENT						301.40
ANNUAL COSTS OF SEED PRODUCTION--5 YEAR LIFE						
Irrigate 14x		Water 5 ac ft	57.50	9	46.00	103.50
Fertilize (water-run)		350# N @ .15/lb	52.50			52.50
Insect Control 7x	4.90	Insecticide	145.00			179.30
Weed Control	4.90	Herbicides	10.00			14.90
TOTAL ANNUAL COSTS						350.20
PREHARVEST COSTS						
Land Rent (net acres)						160.00
Amortization		20% on total cost of stand establishment				60.25
Cost Overhead		15% of annual costs, land rent and amortization				85.57
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS						656.05
HARVEST COSTS						
Swather 1x	8.00/acre					5.00
Bale 2 tons	12.00/ton					24.00
Haul & Stack	.24/bale	15 bales/ton				3.64
TOTAL HARVEST COST						40.64
SEED HARVEST & POST HARVEST COSTS						
Cut Rotary mower 2x	15.00/acre					30.00
Combining 3x	29.00/acre					87.00
Hauling	5.00/ton					2.25
Cleaning Seed	9.17/cwt					82.53
Bags	1.00/cwt					9.00
Baling straw 3 tons	12.00/ton					36.00
Rake 2x	4.00					8.00
Haul & Stack	.24/bale	20 bales/ton				14.40
TOTAL SEED HARVEST & POST HARVEST COSTS						269.15
TOTAL ALL COSTS						925.23
Value of pasturing and straw ---	45.00			Total: straw and pasture		45.00
Seed costs: (total costs-straw & pasture value)						580.23
Seed breakeven price/lb. @ 650 lb./acre						1.35

BERMUDAGRASS SEED CULTURE

1991-1992

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>YIELD/ACRE (LBS)</u> ^{1/}	<u>VALUE/LB</u>
1989	18,561	575	\$1.30
1988	20,160	540	1.25
1987	23,476	838	.80
1986	20,800	939	1.60 ^{2/}
1985	15,000	855	2.20 ^{2/}

SOIL PREPARATION: A uniform seed bed is a prerequisite to a good stand. High spots in the field cause uneven irrigation, resulting in poor stands. Plowing or subsoiling appear to be equally satisfactory as initial soil tillage for bermudagrass.

PLANTING DATE: Late May to early June is the preferred time for plantings.

SEEDING RATES: Plant 5 to 15 pounds of seed per acre on either corrugations or flat basins. There are approximately 1,800,000 seeds per pound. This means there is potential for 205 plants per square foot with 5 pounds of seed per acre. Heavier seed rates are needed on saline soils. Corrugation cost is \$12 acre extra at planting.

VARIETIES: Two varieties are commonly grown for seed in Imperial County, Common and Giant, however, there may be other varieties grown as well. Varieties that are in demand in domestic and foreign markets should be planted if possible.

IRRIGATION: Tensiometers help to determine water needs and schedule better irrigation. Sprinklers should be used to establish the best stand possible. Call the farm advisors' office for further information.

PEST CONTROL: Good control of insects in the early part of crop growth is necessary and more important than later in the crop. Cutworms, spider mites, thrips and aphids may cause damage to spring and fall crops. Grass whiteflies and the fulgorid Toya propingua can cause extensive damage in the fall by contaminating seed heads with honeydew.

A large amount of hand labor may be needed if fields have offtypes and grassy weeds. Call the weed control farm advisor for further information.

HARVESTING: Most seed bermuda is harvested twice a year, a summer crop and a late fall crop. However, some crops may be used as pasture or harvested for hay depending on market demand and prices.

Hay can be harvested instead of one seed crop. Hay harvesting cost averages \$41/acre. Income from hay can be \$70/acre.

The harvesting costs presented here should be adjusted for seed/seed, seed/hay, pasture/seed or other harvest regimes for the summer/fall crops. Seed harvest cost \$135 per crop per year, while harvest for hay costs \$41 per crop.

^{1/} Unhulled seed

^{2/} price of hulled seed

GUIDELINES TO PRODUCTION COSTS AND PRACTICES

Imperial County Crops, Circular 104F

1991-1992

CUSTOM RATE CHARGES

HEAVY TRACTOR WORK

PRICE/ACRE

Plow	\$ 24.75
Subsoil 2nd Gear	29.25
Disc, Regular	9.50
Disc, Stubble	18.25
Float	8.25
Triplane	8.75
List, Regular	11.50
Landplane	10.00
Chisel	20.75

PLANTING AND CULTIVATING

Plant and Shape Sugar Beet 40" Beds	15.50
Precision Plant 40" Beds	14.50
Plant	13.75
Cultivate 4-Row 30", 40" Beds	10.75
Spike and Furrow Out (2 row)	10.50
Lilliston	9.50
Furrow out alone	8.00

INCORPORATING, BORDER AND BED WORK

Power Incorporate	20.25
Scraper Borders	12.75
Border, Cross checks and Break Borders	15.00
Roll Beds	5.00

FERTILIZER APPLICATION

Broadcast Fertilizer	6.00
Inject Fertilizer (Flat)	10.00
Fertilize and Furrow Out 30", 40" Beds	10.50

IRRIGATION

Custom Sprinkle	\$130.00-140.00
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HARVEST

Swather	7.50
Rake	4.00

MISCELLANEOUS

Motor Grader/Hour	42.75
Chop Stalks, Etc.	11.00
Cultipacker	6.00
Power Incorporate Herbicides	20.25
Ground Spray Pesticides (4 Row)	7.50
Aerial Spray 5 Gal. (Insecticide)	4.75
Aerial Spray 10 Gal. (Fungicides)	5.00