

BERMUDAGRASS SEED PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS 1987-1988

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

Field--650 pounds seed, double cropped, unhulled

OPERATION	CUSTOM RATE	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
LAND PREPARATION						
Plow	24.25					24.25
Disc 2x	9.00					18.00
Build & Break borders	15.00					15.00
Flood		Water .8 ac. ft.	7.20	1	5.50	12.70
Disc 2x	9.00					18.00
Fertilize	6.00	75# N	21.00			27.00
Landplane 2x	9.50					19.00
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION COSTS						133.95
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	7.20	1	5.50	12.70
COST OF ESTABLISHMENT						167.20
TOTAL COST OF STAND ESTABLISHMENT						301.15
ANNUAL COSTS OF SEED PRODUCTION--5 YEAR LIFE						
Irrigate 14x		Water 5 ac ft	45.00	8	44.00	89.00
Fertilize (water-run)		350# N @ .15/lb	52.50			52.50
Insect Control 7x	4.90	Insecticide	145.00			164.60
Weed Control	4.90	Herbicides	10.00			14.90
TOTAL ANNUAL COSTS						321.00
Land Rent (new lease)						110.00
Amortization		20% on total cost of stand establishment				60.23
Post Overhead		15% of annual costs, land rent and amortization				73.68
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS						564.91
HARVEST COSTS						
Swather 1x	8.00					8.00
Bale 2 tons	12.00/ton					24.00
Haul & Stack	.24/bale @ 18 bales/ton					9.00
TOTAL HARVEST COST (Note last two paragraphs on next page)						41.00
SEED HARVEST & POST HARVEST COSTS						
Cut Rotary mower 2x	15.00					30.00
Combining 3x	29.00					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					60.00
Rake 2x	4.00					8.00
Haul & Stack	.24/bale @ 20 bales/ton					15.00
TOTAL SEED HARVEST & POST HARVEST COSTS						293.78
TOTAL ALL COSTS						858.69
Value of pasturing and straw ---	45.00					45.00
		Total: straw and pasture				45.00
		Seed cost: (total costs-straw & pasture value)				813.69
		Seed breakeven price/lb. @ 650 lb./acre				1.25

BERMUDAGRASS SEED CULTURE

1987-1988

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>YIELD/AC (LBS)</u> ^{1/}	<u>VALUE/LB</u>
1986	20,800	939	\$1.60 ^{2/}
1985	15,000	855	2.20 ^{2/}
1984	12,400	900	1.00
1983	14,200	789	.83
1982	12,360	900	.85

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. Growers will plow most of the time while others will subsoil.

PLANTING DATES: Late May and early June is the preferred time for plantings.

SEEDING RATES: Plant 5 to 15 pounds of seed per acre on corrugation or flat. There are approximately 1,800,000 plants per pound. This would mean there are 205 plants per square foot with 5 pounds of seed. Heavier seed rates are needed on saline soils. Corrugation cost is \$10/acre extra at planting.

VARIETIES: Two varieties are normally grown for seed in Imperial County, Common and Giant, however, there may be other varieties grown. Varieties that have domestic and foreign demand should be planted.

IRRIGATION: Tensiometers help to obtain a better irrigation. Sprinklers should be used to establish the best stand possible. Call the farm advisors' office for further information.

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

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 for two crops in the summer and winter. However, some fall crops may be used for pasturing while the spring crop is usually harvested for seed.

Hay can also be harvested instead of one seed crop. Hay harvesting cost averages \$41/acre. Income from hay can be \$69/acre, which can help offset seed cost.

The harvesting costs are not included in the cost data sheet. If you have one crop of seed, you should add the \$41. Reduce seed harvest and post harvest costs from one seed harvest rather than two.

^{1/} Unhulled seed^{2/} Price of hulled seed