

WHAT DOES IT COST YOU TO GROW SWEET CORN?

Based on yield of 200 five-dozen-ear crates per acre.

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS		YOUR COSTS	
	PER ACRE	PER CRATE	PER ACRE	PER CRATE
Land Preparation				
Plow under cover crop (cont.)	\$5.00			
Disc 2 times and pack	3.75			
Harrow - 1 x	1.25			
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION	10.00	.05		
Planting - 2 row planter - 1 x	1.75	.008		
Cultural labor and field power				
Furrow out - 1 x	1.75			
Cultivation and furrow - 3 x	5.25			
Hoeing and Thinning - 2 x	10.00			
Fertilizer application - included in furrow	- -			
Pest control, point brush dust	20.00			
Irrigation - 25 x	25.00			
Miscellaneous				
TOTAL CULTURAL	63.75	.32		
Materials				
Irrigation water - 50 ac. in.	25.00			
Fertilizer 160# N.	24.00			
Manure - 400 cu. ft.	- -			
Pest control - Dust	7.50			
Seed-treated - 12# @ 30¢	3.60			
Crates - 200 @ 15¢	30.00			
TOTAL MATERIAL COST	90.10	.45		
Harvesting and Packing				
Picking				
Hauling				
Packing				
TOTAL HARVEST	50.00	.25		
Cash overhead				
General Expense - 5% above	10.69			
Taxes	12.00			
Insurance	2.50			
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD	25.19	.12		
Depreciation - Equip. & pipeline	8.50	.04		
Land rent or Interest	50.00	.25		
TOTAL ALL COSTS	\$297.54	\$1.49		

Figures shown above are typical costs for the Chino area. However, costs vary greatly from farm to farm. The above figures come to 30¢ per day.

The extra columns are for you to use in figuring your costs.

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## GROWING SWEET CORN

High yields per acre must be produced if you are going to stay in the business. For example, if you take the same costs shown on the other page and figure for a 150 crate yield, the cost per crate soars to \$1.86. If the yield is stepped up to 250 crates per acre, the cost drops to \$1.26 per crate.

**FERTILIZER:** Corn requires rich soil. It is recommended that you use 160 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre as a starting point. Some fields may take a little more, some may get by with a little less.

**IRRIGATION:** Sweet corn takes frequent irrigations, for the corn plant is coarse rooted, and shallow rooted. Frequent light irrigations do a better job of keeping the top two feet of soil moist than longer spaced, deep soakings. Costs shown here are for corn planted in the spring. June or July plantings may need more than 25 irrigations on sandy soils for the weather will be hotter during most of the growing season.

**PLANTING:** Ordinarily 12 to 15 pounds per acre of one of the Golden Cross Bantam hybrids, Ioana, or the variety 870 are planted. Seed is drilled 2 to 3 inches deep in rows about 32 inches apart. The stand is thinned to a plant every foot at the time of the first hoeing. Early April to mid-July is the best growing season, although some commercial growers do some March planting in an attempt to get earlier corn. March planting is risky. Corn does not grow fast during the cool short spring days. Advancing the planting date several weeks at this time of the year may only bring mature corn a couple of days ahead of mid-April plantings.

**WEED CONTROL:** Cultivation only for weed control and necessary re-furrowing is recommended. Broad-leaved weeds can be killed by spraying the whole field, corn and all, with 2,4-D at the rate of 1/2 to 3/4 pounds of "acid equivalent" per acre. The salt or amine form, rather than the ester, should be used.

**PEST CONTROL:** Wireworm damage can be prevented by fumigating the soil with Ethylene di Bromide (EDB) at the rate of 2 to 3 gallons of actual material per acre. A newer method becoming more popular is to treat the seed with 4 ounces of wetttable lindane powder for each hundred pounds of seed before planting.

Sweet corn earworm damage can be held down to 5 to 20 per cent by several methods. One is injecting the ears with 1% DDT in mineral oil. Another method is three treatments of 5% DDT dust applied to the ears with a stencil paint brush. A third method is a spray applied with a gun, such as a paint sprayer, held within an inch or two of each ear. The spray used contains 1% DDT, 5 to 10 per cent mineral oil, USP, and water. All methods require careful timing. See your farm advisor for details.

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