MI-VS-55

MILO

COSTS & GENERAL HINTS ON PRODUCTION

University of California
Agricultural Extension Service
Kern County
Reprinted August, 1955

BRIEFS ON GROWING MILO
Roy M. Barnes -- Farm Advisor

GENERAL:

Milo is an excellent crop to use in a double cropping program. It is often used following wheat, barley, oats, early potatoes, or any other crop that is harvested in mid-season. As a feed, milo has a protein content slightly less than No. 2 yellow corn.

SOIL REQUIREMENTS:

Milo can be grown on any of Kern County's soils. It is moderately tolerant to alkali.

VARIETY:

Double Dwarf Milo 38 is best. Milo 15, a selection which is 10 to 15 days earlier to mature, is being tested.

SEED TREATMENT:

Seed should be treated with a suitable disinfectant. One ounce of New Improved Ceresan per 100 lbs. of seed can be recommended.

PREPARATION OF SOIL & PLANTING:

Like all other crops, a firm moist seedbed is required. Pre-irrigation is the best practice; however, planting dry, then irrigating up, is sometimes done successfully. Milo may be broadcast, drilled, or seeded in row.

PLANTING RATE:

When broadcast or drilled, 12 to 15 lbs. of seed is recommended. When seeding in rows 20 to 32 inches, 3 to 5 lbs. of seed is recommended. Always plant certified seed.

 (Cont'd. Page 3)

~~Sorghum~~ 8/55

WHAT WILL IT COST ME TO GROW MILO WITH A YIELD PER ACRE OF 4000 LBS.

Roy M. Barnes *

Burt Burlingame **

Costs - Man labor @ 95¢ hr.; medium tractor @ $1.60 hr.

	Sample Costs		My Costs	
PRE-HARVEST LABOR AND MATERIAL COSTS:	Per Acre	Per Cwt.	Per Acre	Per Cwt.
Land preparation 2 hr. man and tractor	$ 5.10			
Plant and fertilize 4 rows, 2 men and tractor .4 hr.	1.40			
Seed: 4 lbs. @ .05	.20			
Fertilizer: 60 lbs. N @ .15	9.00			
Irrigation 1 pre and 3 crop, 6 hrs.	5.70			
Irrigation water, power to pump 1-2/3 A.F. @ $4.50	7.50			
Cultivation 2 times @ 1/2 hr. each	2.55			
Total pre-harvest labor & material	31.45	$ .79		
HARVESTING COSTS:				
Combine - contract	6.00			
Hauling out - contract @ $2.00 per ton	4.00			
Total harvesting cost	10.00	.25		
CASH OVERHEAD COSTS:				
General expense @ 5% of labor and material	2.07			
County taxes	6.25			
Repairs, misc. and comp. ins.	4.00			
Total cash overhead costs	12.32	.31		
TOTAL CASH LABOR AND FIELD POWER COSTS	53.77	1.35		
DEPRECIATION:				
Irrigation facilities (original cost $200)	15.00			
Tillage equipment & misc. other than tractors - $15 cost, 10 years life	1.50			
Total depreciation	16.50	.41		
INTEREST ON INVESTMENT @ 5%:				
Facilities and equipment on 1/2 original cost ($107.50)	5.38			
Land @ $500 per acre	25.00			
Total interest on investment	30.38	.76		
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION	$100.65	$2.52		

* Farm Advisor

** Extension Specialist in Farm Management

If double cropped, overhead costs of depreciation, interest and taxes would be prorated and total production costs reduced accordingly.

PLANTING TIME:

Milo may be seeded from May 1 to June 15. When seeding before other fields in the community, and which would be first to head, birds are likely to concentrate, resulting in a great loss of grain. A majority of the fields in the county are planted about June 15.

PLANTING DEPTH:

The planting depth need not exceed 2-1/2 inches.

FERTILIZATION:

When following potatoes, where there is usually a large amount of carryover, the application of nitrogen is not necessary. In any instance, probably 60# of nitrogen is all that will be required. If nitrogen is to be applied, application should be made at seeding time, if possible.

IRRIGATION:

Milo is a light user of water--perhaps one-half as much as is required for cotton. Being a shallow-rooted crop, irrigations need not be deep. Timing the irrigations is most important. An irrigation just prior to the boot stage--in order to furnish ample moisture during the developing of the head--is important. Watering after this stage of growth only encourages the growth of tillers or suckers which usually are immature at the time of harvest, which is objectionable.

CULTIVATION:

Since soil will usually dry out as deeply as it is tilled, cultivation should be done only to control weeds.

HARVESTING:

Harvesting is done by combine. Any of the grain harvesters are good.

YIELD:

From 4,000 to 6,000 lbs. per acre can be expected. Yields as high as 9,000 lbs. have been accomplished.