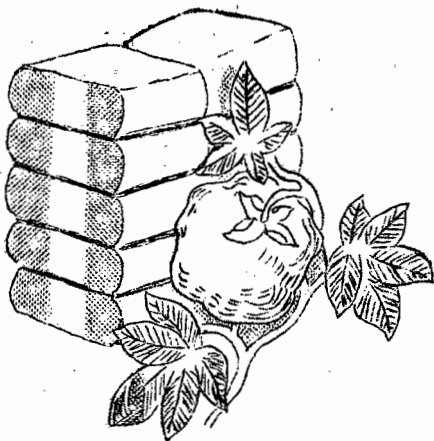


cotton  
sample costs  
and  
production



University of California  
Agricultural Extension Service  
Imperial County  
Court House, El Centro

COTTON--SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
<b>LAND PREPARATION--LABOR &amp; FIELD POWER</b>	
Subsoil or plow 1x	\$ 8.00
Disc 2x	4.00
Land plane 1x	2.75
Fertilize	2.00
Listing 1x	3.00
Mulching 1x	2.25
<b>TOTAL FOR LAND PREPARATION</b>	<b>\$ 22.00</b>
<b>CULTURAL LABOR AND FIELD POWER</b>	
Plant	2.50
Cultivate 4x	10.00
Fertilize & furrow out 2x	4.00
Hoeing and weeding	20.00
Insect control application	7.50
Irrigation 12x	9.00
<b>TOTAL FOR CULTURAL LABOR, ETC.</b>	<b>\$ 53.00</b>
<b>MATERIALS</b>	
Irrigation water - 4½ ft.	9.00
Seed--20# @ \$200/Ton	2.00
Fertilizer--240# N, 100# P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	26.80
Insect control 5x	20.00
<b>TOTAL MATERIALS</b>	<b>\$ 57.80</b>
<b>HARVESTING</b>	
Machine harvest \$15/bale	37.50
Hauling	3.00
Ginning--bags & ties, etc. \$1.15/cwt.	42.20
<b>TOTAL HARVESTING</b>	<b>\$ 82.70</b>
<b>CASH OVERHEAD</b>	
General expense--10% of above.	
Supervision, Taxes, Insurance, Transportation,	
Miscellaneous Expenses	21.30
<b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</b>	<b>\$ 21.30</b>

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
Depreciation (items not included above)	\$
LAND RENT	\$ 65.00
<b>TOTAL ALL COSTS</b>	<b>\$ 301.80</b>
Less income from seed 1 ton @ \$50/ton	50.00
<b>NET COST OF LINT</b>	<b>\$ 251.80</b>
<b>YIELDS</b>	
The average production for the county is about 2.5 bales per acre. Some growers have produced more than four bales per acre.	
<b>PLANTING DATES</b>	
March 15 to June 1. Cotton planted around the 1st of April seems to have fewer problems than earlier plantings. Yields decrease when cotton is planted later than April 20th.	
<b>PLANTING</b>	
Cotton usually is grown on raised beds 38 to 42 inches apart. Planting in moisture or irrigating up will give good stands. Growers will have less seedling disease problems when planting in moisture, but some fields are difficult to mulch. Don't use both methods on the same field.	
<b>SOILS</b>	
Cotton is tolerant of many soil and water variations. Medium textured, well drained soils will produce higher yields. Sloping beds will usually give better stands where salinity is a problem. Water penetration becomes a problem on the heavier soils.	
<b>IRRIGATION</b>	
Do not allow the plants to wilt at any time. Cotton plants stressed for water will produce fewer bolls. Irrigate only when necessary as over-irrigation leaches out plant nutrients, increases weed problems, and causes root damage.	

## FERTILIZERS

Fields with a good phosphate history will not benefit by an application. Phosphate should be put on ahead of planting if field is deficient. Eighty to 100 lbs. of  $P_2O_5$  per acre should be sufficient.

One-third of the nitrogen before planting is a good practice. After the cotton has been thinned would be a good time to put on the second application. The timing of the last application is important, preferably early June.

Nitrogen applied after July promotes lodging and sometimes is too late to influence the top crop. About 240 to 270 lbs. of nitrogen per acre will give good yields on land with no limiting factors.

## PLANT SPACINGS

Spacings within the row of 3 to 12 inches result in approximately the same yields. Wider spacings reduce yields, make mechanical picking difficult, and increase weed problems.

## INSECT AND DISEASE CONTROL

Seedling diseases can reduce cotton stands to the point where replanting may be necessary. Some fields appear to have a more serious seedling disease problem than others, especially where cotton follows sugar beets or alfalfa.

Disease may cause some loss in seedling stands even under the best of conditions. Some practices tend to favor development of the disease-causing organisms, while the seedlings are placed at a disadvantage.

Conditions that put the seedling at a disadvantage are:

- 1) Planting too early when soil is cool,
- 2) Holding water on too long,
- 3) Improper drainage,
- 4) Untimely first irrigation.

Plant only seed that has been treated with one of the mercury fungicides. Fungicide dust applied in the seed row at planting may be helpful when planting early or in fields that have a history of seedling diseases.

Boll rots are among the most serious diseases in cotton. Boll rots are induced by excessive irrigation and high humidity especially in rank cotton. Bottom defoliation of cotton plants is an effective method of controlling boll rots. Bottom defoliation permits more air to circulate around the cotton plants thus maintaining dryer conditions less conducive to boll rot development.

Many pests attack cotton in Imperial County. For the latest control recommendations, consult the University of California Pest and Disease Control Guide for California. Copies are available at your Farm Advisors' office.

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