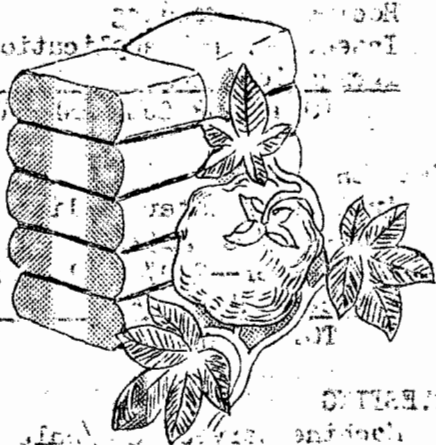


cotton

sample costs

and

production



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

Cost Data Sheet No. 18

UC Cooperative Extension

COTTON--SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
LAND PREPARATION--LABOR & FIELD POWER	
Subsoil or plow 1x	\$ 7.00
Disc 2x	4.00
Land plane 1x	2.50
Fertilize	2.00
Listing 1x	2.25
Mulching 1x	2.75
TOTAL FOR LAND PREPARATION	\$ 20.50
CULTURAL LABOR AND FIELD POWER	
Plant	3.00
Cultivate 4x	10.00
Fertilize & furrow out 2x @ 3.50	7.00
Hoing and weeding	23.00
Insect control application	7.50
Irrigation 14x	10.50
TOTAL FOR CULTURAL LABOR, ETC.	\$ 61.00
MATERIALS	
Irrigation water application - 7 ft.	14.00
Seed--20# @ \$315/Ton	3.05
Fertilizer--240# N, 100# P ₂ O ₅	26.80
Insect control 5x	20.00
TOTAL MATERIALS	\$ 63.95
HARVESTING	
Machine harvest \$20/bale	50.00
Hauling	3.50
Ginning--bags & ties, etc. \$1.30/cwt.	47.71
TOTAL HARVESTING	\$ 101.21
CASH OVERHEAD	
General expense--10% of above	
Supervision, taxes, insurance, transportation	
Miscellaneous expenses	24.40
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD	\$ 24.40

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
LAND RENT	\$ 80.00
TOTAL ALL COSTS	\$ 351.33
Less income from seed 1 ton @ \$44/ton	44.00
NET COST OF LINT	\$ 307.33
YIELDS	
<p>The production for the county for the past 2 years is about 2.75 bales per acre. Some growers have produced high yields on skip row plantings.</p>	
PLANTING DATES	
<p>March 15 to June 1. Cotton planted around the 1st of April has fewer stand problems than earlier plantings. Yields decrease when cotton is planted later than April 20th.</p>	
PLANTING	
<p>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 the moisture, but some fields are difficult to mulch.</p>	
SOILS	
<p>Cotton can be grown on all soil types in Imperial County. Medium textured, well drained soils will produce higher yields. Sloping beds will usually give better stands where salinity is a problem. Some soils are too saline to produce an economic crop of cotton. Water penetration is a problem on some soils.</p>	
IRRIGATION	
<p>Do not allow the plants to wilt at any time. Cotton plants stressed for water will shed squares and bolls. Irrigate only when necessary as overirrigation leaches out plant nutrients.</p>	
VARIETIES	
<p>Delta Pine Smooth leaf is the highest yielding variety and dominates planting. Other varieties are being tested.</p>	

INSECT AND DISEASE CONTROL

Seedling diseases can reduce cotton stands to the point where replanting may be necessary. The seedling disease problem frequently is more severe 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

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 should be applied before planting. The second application should be made at thinning. The timing of the last application is important, early June.

Nitrogen applied after July promotes lodging and sometimes is too late to influence the top crop. About 240 lbs. nitrogen per acre will give good yields.

Tissue testing has been perfected to the point where growers may rely on it as a guide to fertilization. This is available locally on a custom basis.

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.

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 Imperial County Field Crop Pest and Disease Control Guide. Copies are available at your Farm Advisors' office.

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