

file about 56

SUDAN GRASS HAY PRODUCTION  
DESERT VALLEYS, RIVERSIDE COUNTY

GENERAL: Sudan grass is one of the desert valley area's most productive summer growing pasture crops and produces good quality hay with yields from 4 to 8 tons depending on length of growing season.

VARIETIES: The varieties best adapted to the Palo Verde and Coachella Valleys are Sweet Sudan and Sudan 23. Other varieties are Tift and Common. Tests in the Palo Verde Valley have proven Sweet Sudan to be the highest yielder with Sudan 23 close behind.

SOILS: Sudan may be grown on a wide variety of soils but yields are reduced on very sandy soils. The crop will stand moderate amounts of alkali if irrigated frequently.

LAND PREPARATION: A well prepared seed bed is necessary for good germination. Just before planting, the soil should be disced to kill weeds, followed closely with a float or drag to smooth the surface.

TIME OF PLANTING: Sudan may be planted from April 1st to June 15. Plantings later than June 15 have not produced maximum yields because of short growing season. Highest yields are obtained from the earlier plantings.

SEEDING: The most satisfactory method of seeding is the grain drill set to about 2 inch depth. The most common seeding rate is 15-20 pounds of seed per acre. Plants tend to grow coarse on lighter seeding rates.

FERTILIZERS: For a long growing season, 60-80 pounds of actual nitrogen may be required for maximum yield. The fertilizer should normally be applied in two applications - one-half at planting time and the rest after the first or second pasturing, or cutting. Normally little or no phosphate is needed.

IRRIGATION: Irrigation is by flooding between borders. The crop is irrigated up and will normally require irrigation every 7-10 days during the warmer weather. When pasturing, move cattle frequently and do not wait until all feed is gone.

PESTS AND DISEASES: Usually it is not necessary to treat for pests on Sudan. Aphids, fleas, beetles and crickets may at times cause some damage but it is not necessary to control these under normal circumstances.

HARVESTING: Harvesting is best done with animals. Pasturing should be delayed until the stand is at least 18" high. If cut for hay, cut shortly after it begins to head.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY CALIFORNIA PRODUCERS PER CWT.  
(Seed Prices)

1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
5.50	7.00	6.80	11.00	5.40	9.80	4.90

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WHAT DOES IT COST YOU TO GROW SUDAN  
DESERT VALLEYS, RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Based on 5 Tons Hay Per Acre (Palo Verde)

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS		YOUR COSTS	
	Per Acre	Per Ton	Per Acre	Per Ton
<u>Land Preparation and Plant</u>				
Disc 2x . . . . .	\$ 4.00		.....	.....
Border 1x . . . . .	.50		.....	.....
Float 1x. . . . .	1.25		.....	.....
Fertilize 1x. . . . .	1.00		.....	.....
Plant . . . . .	1.75		.....	.....
Ditch and Miscellaneous . . . . .	.50		.....	.....
<b>PREPARATION AND PLANT TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>\$ 9.00</b>	<b>\$ 1.80</b>	.....	.....
<u>Cultivation and Field Power</u>				
Irrigate 12x. . . . .	\$ 4.80		.....	.....
Fertilize 1x. . . . .	1.00		.....	.....
<b>CULTURAL TOTAL. . . . .</b>	<b>\$ 5.80</b>	<b>\$ 1.16</b>	.....	.....
<u>Materials</u>				
Irrigation water - $\frac{1}{2}$ year . . . . .	\$ 6.00		.....	.....
Seed, 15-20 pounds. . . . .	2.40		.....	.....
Fertilizer, 80 pounds N . . . . .	12.00		.....	.....
<b>MATERIALS TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>\$20.40</b>	<b>\$ 4.08</b>	.....	.....
<u>Harvesting</u>				
Pasture . . . . .	\$ -		.....	.....
Mow 3x, rake 3x . . . . .	7.50		.....	.....
Bale, haul and stack. . . . .	20.00		.....	.....
<b>HARVEST TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>\$27.50</b>	<b>\$ 5.50</b>	.....	.....
<u>Cash Overhead</u>				
General expense . . . . .	\$ 3.14		.....	.....
Taxes $\frac{1}{2}$ year . . . . .	3.00		.....	.....
Insurance and miscellaneous . . . . .	1.00		.....	.....
<b>CASH OVERHEAD TOTAL. . . . .</b>	<b>\$ 7.14</b>	<b>\$ 1.38</b>	.....	.....
<b>TOTAL CASH COSTS . . . . .</b>	<b>\$69.84</b>	<b>\$13.97</b>	.....	.....
<u>Other costs to be added</u>				
Land rent or interest on Inv. $\frac{1}{2}$ yr. . . . .	\$20.00	\$ 4.00	.....	.....
Management - estimate your own. . . . .	-	-	.....	.....

The above sample costs are based on commercial or contract rates and average yields and were developed with the help of growers in the area. Costs will vary widely-- compute your own costs by filling in the last two columns.