

BARLEY

COSTS & GENERAL HINTS ON PRODUCTION

University of California
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Kern County
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UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

BRIEFS ON GROWING BARLEY
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SOIL REQUIREMENTS:

Barley is adapted to most Kern County soils and is a good crop to grow on alkali land.

VARIETY:

Atlas 46, Arivat, California Mariout, and Club Mariout are the varieties recommended for Kern County. Atlas 46 is a variety well suited for malting purposes and is resistant to mildew and scald. Arivat, California Mariout, and Club Mariout are grown for feed. Atlas 46 and Club Mariout mature at mid-season and are suited to early plantings. Arivat and California Mariout mature 5 to 12 days earlier and are suited for late plantings. California Mariout will do well on alkali soils. Always plant certified seed to give the crop all the advantages at the beginning.

SEED TREATMENT:

Seed should be treated to guard against smut and stripe. One ounce per 100 lbs. of grain of New Improved Ceresan is recommended.

PREPARATION OF SOIL AND PLANTING:

On irrigated land, the soil should be worked to be firm--much the same as alfalfa. Pre-irrigation is always best to insure ample moisture during germination and through the stooling period. The same preparation is made to the land which is non-irrigated, except planting usually follows one year of summer fallow. In either case, planting may be done with a grain drill or broadcast.

PLANTING RATE:

On irrigated land; early planting close drilled,

WHAT WILL IT COST TO GROW BARLEY IN KERN COUNTY
 BASED ON A YIELD OF 4,000 LBS. PER ACRE
 (Bulk handled)

Roy M. Barnes*

Burt Burlingame**

Man Labor @ \$.95, Medium tractor @ \$1.60 an hour

	Sample	Costs	My Costs	
	Per Acre	Per Cwt.	Per Acre	Per Cwt.
PREHARVEST LABOR AND MATERIAL COSTS:				
Prepare land-plow, disc, harrow; 2 hrs. man & tractor	\$ 5.10			
Plant: man and tractor .33 hr.	.82			
Seed: 80 # @ \$5 cwt. treated	4.00			
Irrigate: 1 pre and 2 crop, 4 man hrs.	3.80			
Irrigation water: 2 acre-feet @ \$4.50	9.00			
Fertilizing: No additional labor cost				
Fertilizer: 60 pounds nitrogen @ 15¢	9.00			
Total preharvest labor and material cost	31.72	.79		
HARVESTING COSTS:				
Combine: contract	6.00			
Haul out: contract @ \$2 per ton	4.00			
Total harvesting cost	10.00	.25		
CASH OVERHEAD COSTS:				
General expense, car, phone, etc.	2.09			
County taxes	6.25			
Repairs, insurance, etc.	4.00			
Total cash overhead cost	12.34	.31		
TOTAL CASH, LABOR AND FIELD POWER COSTS	54.06	1.35		
DEPRECIATION:				
Irrigation system: \$200 cost	15.00			
Tillage equipment: drill, etc. \$15, 10 yr. life	1.50			
Total depreciation cost	16.50	.41		
INTEREST ON INVESTMENT AT 5%:				
Irrigation system, tillage equip., etc. on $\frac{1}{2}$ orig. cost	5.38			
Land @ \$500 per acre	25.00			
Total interest on investment	30.38	.76		
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION	100.94	2.52		

Income from any pasture or straw should be deducted from total cost to obtain the net cost of producing the barley.

If double-cropped, total cost of production would be reduced by the proration of taxes, repairs, depreciation and interest costs to the other crop.

* Farm Advisor

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75 to 80 lbs. per acre is sufficient. On irrigated land; late planting close drilled, 90 to 96 lbs. per acre. On non-irrigated land; close drilled 50 lbs. per acre. Usually one-fourth more seed is required when broadcast.

PLANTING TIME:

Late October to February 1st.

PLANTING DEPTH:

The depth of planting should be governed by type of soil and soil moisture. In most cases, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches is sufficient.

FERTILIZATION:

Unless barley is to follow alfalfa or other truck crops where there is a large amount of nitrogen left in the soil, nitrogen fertilizer is needed in most soils in the county to produce maximum yields. Sixty lbs. of nitrogen (300 lbs. of ammonium sulfate or its equivalent) is recommended. If phosphate is now being used on other crops in the area, then 80 lbs. of actual phosphate (200 lbs. treble super phosphate) would be sufficient.

IRRIGATION:

Barley is a light user of water, but should have it at the proper time in growth. The irrigation given prior to seeding should provide sufficient moisture to germinate the seed and carry the crop beyond the stooling stage. To prevent leaching much of the nitrogen below the root zone and to promote a vigorous root growth, it is best not to irrigate, if possible, during early growth. The greatest need for moisture comes when the head is in the boot. Small grain plants obtain very little moisture below a depth of two feet; therefore, deep irrigation is not necessary. Less moisture is required after kernel is formed

HARVESTING:

Grain can be safely stored when the moisture content reaches 15% or under.

YIELDS:

With proper care, a yield of 4,000 lbs. per acre, or better, may be obtained.