

# SACRAMENTO COUNTY

# Agriculture

• Notes from the Sacramento County Farm Advisor •

## GRAIN/SORGHUM PRODUCTION

Soil Requirements: The highly productive organic and mineral soils as well as the deeper upland soils.

Planting Dates: Main season - May 10 to June 15; Double crop - June 15 to July 15. Soil temperature at planting depth should be over 65° F.

Harvest Dates: September 15 to December 15.

Varieties: All hybrids, RS 610 has been the standard. It will probably soon be replaced by equal or higher yielding, head smut resistant varieties.

Seeding Rate: Full season - 15-18 lbs./acre; small sized, early maturing varieties for late planting - 18-25 lbs./acre.

Fertilizer Requirement: Organic soil - 13-20 lbs. P per acre (30-45 lbs. P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>). Mineral soil - 100-150 lbs. N pre fertilized. If soil is very P deficient, also use starter fertilizer with N and P.

Irrigation: 2 to 3 acre feet of water. On organic soil sub irrigate. On mineral soil, sprinkle, flood, or furrow irrigate, three to five irrigations needed.

Weed Control: Cultivation two to four times. 2,4-D may or may not be needed for broadleaved weed control. Atrazine is recommended for pre or early post-emergence for both watergrass and broadleaved weeds. Propazine recommended for pre-emergence application.

Insect Control: None normally used, natural predators usually control aphids, but occasionally there is crop damage.

Disease Control: Head Smut - resistant varieties.  
Root rot and lodging - avoid moisture stress, especially in salt and alkali areas; use adapted varieties.

### New Developments:

Weed control by Atrazine and no cultivation.  
Continuous variety improvement.

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SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE GRAIN SORGHUM ON PEAT AND MUCK SOIL

Sacramento County, March, 1965

Yield: 6000 lbs.  
 Price: \$ 2.15 per cwt  
 Gross: \$129.00

Labor  
 Common \$1.50  
 Skilled \$1.75

Operation	Date	Hours Per Acre	Cash and Labor Costs per Acre				Total
			Labor	Fuel & Repairs	Materials		
					Kind & Quan.	Cost	
<u>Cultural</u>							
Flood every 3rd year	Aug-Nov	.3	\$ .53	\$ .75			\$ 1.28
Disk 2X	Oct-Dec	.4	.70	1.06			1.76
Plow	Nov-Dec	.3	.53	.80			1.33
Landplane 2X	Mar-Apr	.6	1.05	1.50			2.55
Disk 2X	Mar-May	.4	.70	1.06			1.76
Harrow 2X	Apr-Jn	.2	.35	.30			.65
Plant, fert.	May-Jn	.4	.70	.69	Seed 15# @ 20¢	\$ 3.00	
					80# 0-45-0 @ \$87.50/ton	3.50	7.89
Cultivate 4X	Jn-Jul	1.0	1.75	1.45			3.20
Weed Spray	July				2,4-D applied	2.25	2.25
Sub Irrigate	Jn-Aug	.4	.60		Control water level in main ditches		.60
Drain. Maint.	All year	.1	.15	.15	New ditches & ditch cleaning, contr.	2.00	2.30
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS</b>			<b>\$7.06</b>	<b>\$7.76</b>		<b>\$10.75</b>	<b>\$25.57</b>
<u>Harvest</u>							
Harvest	Oct-Nov	.6	\$1.05	\$2.58			\$3.63
Haul	Oct-Nov	Contr.			3 tons @ \$2.00	\$6.00	6.00
Dry	Oct-Nov	Contr.			3 tons @ \$2.75	8.25	8.25
<b>TOTAL HARVEST COSTS</b>						<b>\$14.25</b>	<b>\$17.88</b>
<u>Cash overhead</u>							
Misc., ofc., etc.			5% of above				\$2.17
Taxes on equip.							1.00
Rent 1/3 of gross							43.00
<b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</b>							<b>\$46.17</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH COST</b>							<b>\$89.62</b>
Management 5% of gross							\$ 6.45
Depreciation and interest on \$93,000 investment in equipment for 750 acres \$124.00 per acre, 10 year life (\$12.40), 6% interest (\$3.72)							\$16.12
<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</b>							<b>\$112.19</b>
COST PER CWT @ 60 cwt yield							\$1.87