

*Agricultural Briefs*

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

SR-SV-75

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GRAIN SORGHUM PRODUCTION - 1975

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: Pioneer - Northrup King.

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 -- starter fertilizer with N, P and K if soil is very P deficient, 100-150 lbs. N pre fertilized plus 13-20 lbs. P.

Irrigation: 1-1/2 to 2 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: Greenbug can be a severe problem, especially when sorghum is young. Can be controlled with Systox or DySiston. Control not as essential as plants head out.

Disease Control: Head Smut--resistant varieties.

Root rot and lodging--avoid moisture stress, especially in salt and alkali areas, use adapted varieties.

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE GRAIN SORGHUM ON PEAT & MINERAL SOILS

SACRAMENTO COUNTY - 1975

Yield: 6000 lbs/acre  
Price: \$130/ton

Gross: \$390/ac  
Net:

\$117.75    \$64.95

Operation	Date	Materials	Total Cost/Acre/Year	
			Peat	Mineral
<u>Cultural</u>				
Flood every 3rd yr.	Aug-Dec	Bulldoze levee up & down \$8/yr or 2.66/3 yr.	\$ 2.66	\$ - -
Disk 2x	Oct-Dec		4.00	4.00
Plow	Nov-Dec		4.00	4.00
Land plane 2x	Mar-Apr		4.00	4.00
Disk 2x & Harrow	Mar-May		4.00	4.00
Pre-fert. & disk	May-Jun	100 lbs/ac Nitrogen	--	28.00
Plant & Starter fert.	May-Jun	30 gal/ac 4-10-10. Seed: 15 lb/ac @ 30¢/lb. \$4.50 + application.	31.40	31.40
Cultivate 2x	Jun-Jul		6.00	6.00
Weed Spray	July	Atrazine + oil + application \$4.00 + 3.00	7.00	7.00
Insecticide 2x	July	Greenbug control 1 pt/ac + air \$3.00	12.00	12.00
Irrigate 5x mineral 3x peat	Jul-Aug Sept		3.50	30.00
Drain maint.		New ditches & clearing	2.00	2.00
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS</b>			<b>\$80.56</b>	<b>\$132.40</b>
<u>Harvest</u>				
Harvest		3 tons @ \$7.50/ton	22.50	22.50
Haul		\$3.00/ton	9.00	9.00
Dry		3 tons @ \$3.50/ton	10.50	10.50
<b>TOTAL HARVEST COST</b>			<b>\$42.00</b>	<b>\$ 42.00</b>
<u>Cash Overhead</u>				
Misc. office			1.00	1.00
Taxes on equipment			1.00	1.00
Rent 1/4 gross			97.00	97.00
Workman's Comp. & Soc. Sec			3.50	3.50
<b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</b>			<b>\$102.50</b>	<b>\$102.50</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH COST</b>			<b>225.06</b>	<b>276.90</b>
Management 5% gross			19.50	19.50
Depreciation & Interest \$150,000 investment in equipment for 1000 acres, 10 year life, interest 10%. Tomato, Grain Sorghum, Sugar beet, Wheat operation. Depreciation \$9.22-Interest \$17.93			27.65	27.65
<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</b>			<b>\$272.25</b>	<b>\$325.05</b>
<b>COST PER TON</b>			<b>\$ 90.75</b>	<b>\$108.35</b>