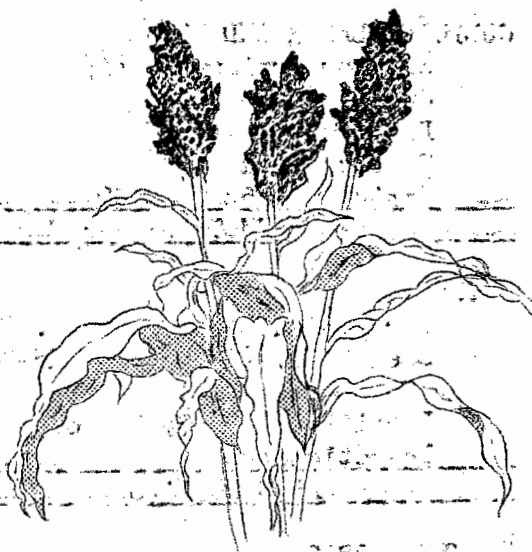


grain sorghums

sample costs

and

production



Agricultural Extension Service

University of California

Imperial County
Court House, El Centro

Cost Data Sheet No. 11

UC Cooperative Extension

SORGHUMS (GRAIN)--SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

(Based on custom rates and 2 tons/acre yield)

ITEMS	Row Planting	Flat Planting
LAND PREPARATION		
Fertilize	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00
Disc 2x @ \$2.00	4.00	4.00
Border		1.00
Float 2x	3.50	3.50
Irrigate		1.00
Mulch		3.00
List	3.00	
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION	\$ 12.50	\$ 14.50
CULTURAL LABOR AND POWER		
Setting irrigation pipe	3.00	
Cultivate 2x	6.00	
Planting	3.00	3.00
Pest control	4.00	4.00
Irrigate 5x @ \$1.00	5.00	5.00
TOTAL CULTURAL LABOR & POWER	\$ 21.00	\$ 12.00
MATERIALS		
Irrigation water - 2½ ft. @ \$2.00	5.00	5.00
Seed - 35# (drilled) - Ryer types		4.00
15# (Row)	2.00	
Fertilizer 150# N @ 6¢	9.00	9.00
Insecticides	9.00	9.00
TOTAL MATERIALS	\$ 25.00	\$ 27.00
HARVEST COSTS		
Combine - \$8.00/A	8.00	8.00
Hauling	4.00	4.00
TOTAL HARVEST	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00
CASH OVERHEAD		
	4.00	4.00
RENT		
	30.00	30.00
TOTAL ALL COSTS	\$ 104.50	\$ 99.50

VARIETIES

Consult Farm Advisor's office for latest recommendations.

PLANTING DATES

Grain Sorghums may be planted as early as March 1.

Depressed yields are likely to occur in Ryer 15 if planted after April.

DD38 and many commercial hybrids may be planted from March 1 to July 1, although there is risk of seed-set failure on DD38 when planted after June 1.

There are several hybrids that look promising for late plantings.

PLANTING RATES

Ryer 15 planted with a grain drill should be planted flat at about 30 to 35 pounds per acre. Spacings should be 7 to 14 inches.

All other varieties and hybrids should be planted at about 10 to 15 lbs. per acre in single rows on 30 to 42 inch beds, 2 rows on 40 to 42 inch beds, or drilled flat in 14 to 21 inch rows.

SOIL AND SEED BED PREPARATION

Soil capable of producing good crops of alfalfa should be suitable for sorghums. Keep tillage operations

at a minimum since returns on grain sorghum are not high. ¹⁰⁰⁰ ~~not advised~~

IRRIGATION

Grain sorghum may be planted in moist soil or irrigated up. It should be irrigated often enough to prevent curling of the leaves. After the grain has reached stiff dough stage, no further irrigations are required.

FERTILIZATION

Only nitrogen is recommended and in the amounts of 80 to 200 lbs. of N. Fertilizer may be applied preplant or at planting time. In sandy soils, split applications are desirable. When planting after lettuce, the lower rate should be used.

HARVESTING

Grain sorghums are harvested by combine.

YIELDS

Excellent yields have been obtained at the Imperial Valley Field Station from both hybrids and open pollinated varieties when planted in April. Many of the varieties made over three tons per acre, some exceeded 4 tons per acre. These trends were also true in grower's yields when planted early.

A wide selection of hybrids for April plantings seem to be adapted to Imperial County, along with the familiar varieties. There are good yield-

ing hybrids for late plantings.

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