

HYBRID FIELD CORN PRODUCTION
WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY

The acreage of hybrid field corn in western Riverside County since 1952 has been less than 400 acres except in 1954 when 907 acres were planted. Average annual yields usually range about 4,000 pounds per acre. Under good management 5,000 pounds (100 bushels) are possible.

SOILS: Sandy loam or heavier soil is preferred. Sandy soils are difficult to keep sufficiently wet. Alkali soils should be avoided.

PLANTING: Varieties: Based on county tests and grower experience, Pioneer 302, DeKalb 1002, long season varieties have been consistently good yielders. For medium season corn, Northrup-King, K-3A, has done well. There are other varieties which show promise but have not as yet had sufficient testing for full evaluation.

Dates: Begin May 1. Poor results have been secured from plantings made after the 15th of June, especially with long season corns.

Land Preparation: The land should be pre-irrigated and to retain moisture should be worked into final seedbed preparation as soon as possible. Seed should be planted 2 to 3 inches deep into moist soil. Some plantings are made in a lister furrow and irrigated several times before re-furrowing.

Method: Plant about 20,000 seeds per acre (85 to 90 seeds per 50 feet of a 40 inch spaced row). The pounds of seed per acre to do this depends on the grade and will vary from 12 to 18 pounds per acre. An expected mortality of 15 to 20 per cent will usually reduce the total plants per acre to 17,500 to 18,000.

FERTILIZERS: A 100 bushel corn crop will use about 160 pounds of nitrogen per acre. This much nitrogen is rarely in the soil even following a crop of alfalfa. Fertilizer should be applied at or soon after planting. On light soils, the second half of the total fertilizer requirement may be side-dressed previous to or shortly after the first irrigation.

IRRIGATION: An IMPORTANT rule is: Never let corn run short of water. On some soils, irrigation may be needed every 7 to 10 days, especially from tasselling until the corn kernels begin to dent. Flat irrigation runs are desirable to permit thorough wetting of the corn ridge. Broad furrows are often useful in this regard. Under an ideal irrigation design, 2 to 2½ acre feet per acre may be adequate but on many soils, 3 or more acre feet may be necessary.

HARVESTING: Where a 40 inch row is used, corn may be harvested with a two-row picker-sheller if the moisture per cent does not exceed 14 per cent. If moisture is 14 per cent to 25 per cent at time of harvest, corn may be picked and crib-stored before shelling. Experience in the area has shown that late planted corn may not get dry enough for pick-shell harvesting for several months after the corn is mature. In this case, either drying equipment may be needed after shelling or the corn must first be picked and crib-stored before shelling.

HYBRID FIELD CORN FOR GRAIN
IN
WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY -- 1959

SAMPLE COSTS OF PRODUCTION

Based on a yield of 5,000 pounds (100 bushels) per acre.

	LABOR & EQUIP- MENT COST/Acre	MATERIALS KIND & COST/Acre	TOTAL COST/Acre
Disc-2x	\$ 3.50		\$ 3.50
Furrow for pre-irrigation	1.50		1.50
Pre-irrigate	1.50		1.50
Plant & fertilize-one operation	2.00	15 lbs. seed \$ 3.75 80 lbs. N 11.20	16.95
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION AND PLANTING			\$ 23.45
Furrow & cultivate-1x	1.50		1.50
Cultivate-1x	1.50		1.50
Fertilize (side-dress with cultivation)-1x	1.50	80 lbs. N 11.20	12.70
Irrigate-10x	12.50	3½ ft. water 35.00	47.50
TOTAL GROWING PERIOD			\$ 63.20
TOTAL CULTURAL COST (Land preparation, planting, plus growing period)			\$ 86.65
Rent - 1/2 year basis			25.00
Cash overhead (Office, car, phone, insurance, etc.)			4.33
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD			\$ 29.33
TOTAL CASH PREHARVEST COST			\$ 115.98
Harvest			
Pick-machine	10.00		10.00
Shell	6.25		6.25
Haul to roadside	5.00		5.00
TOTAL HARVEST COST			\$ 21.25
TOTAL ALL COSTS			\$ 137.23
TOTAL COST PER 100 POUNDS		\$2.74	

The above sample costs are based primarily on contract rates which include interest on investment and depreciation on equipment used. Efficient owner-operators will usually perform these operations for less than the above costs.

PRICES: Insufficient acreage of hybrid field corn has been grown in western Riverside County in the past few years to establish firm price potential but since 1952 the average California Farm price has ranged from about \$2.80 per cwt. to \$3.50 per cwt.

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