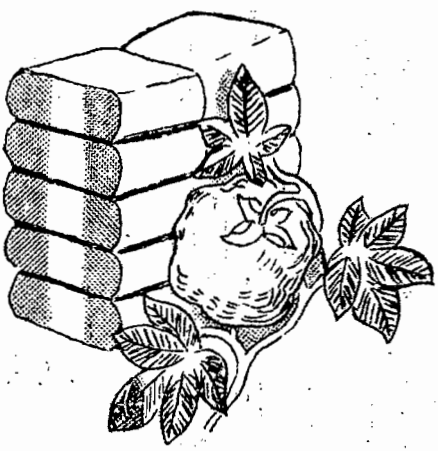
CT-SI-73

cotton

sample costs and production



Agricultural Extension Service
University of California
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Cost Data Sheet No. 4
UC Cooperative Extension

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COTTON--SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Labor at $2.70 per hour ($2.20 plus Social Security, unemployment, and fringe benefits).

Yield - 2.25 bales per acre.

OPERATIONS	Custom Rate	MATERIALS Type	Cost	HAND LABOR Hours	Dollars	SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
LAND PREPARATION						
Plow or subsoil	$10.00					$10.00
Disc 2x	3.50					7.00
Fertilize	3.00	130# N	9.00			12.00
Float	3.50					3.50
List	3.50					3.50
Irrigate		water .5 ac ft	1.15	1.00	2.70	4.85
Cultivate	3.50					3.50
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						$44.35
GROWING PERIOD						
Plant and incorporate	11.00	seed 20# @ .25	5.00			
		herbicide	6.25			
		fungicide 10# @.32	3.20			25.45
Cultivate 3x	3.50					10.50
Fertilize 2x	1.75	230# N	16.25			19.75
Insect control 10x	2.50	insecticide	40.00			65.00
Layby herbicide	4.00	herbicide	8.00			12.00
Irrigate 10x		water 5 ac ft	11.50	8	21.00	33.10**
Defoliate	2.75	10 gal.	2.90			5.65
GROWING PERIOD						$171.45
GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREP. COSTS						$215.80
Land Rent (does not include allotment)						90.00
Cash Overhead - 15% of preharvest cost and land rent						45.87
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS						$351.67
HARVEST COSTS						
Machine picking	21.00 per bale	(1.40/cwt seed cotton first pick and $1.60 second pick with $15/A minimum)				47.25
Hauling	1.00/bale					2.25
Ginning*	1.35/cwt of seed cotton					
TOTAL ALL COST						$401.17

Cost per pound = 35.66¢

*Ginning cost has usually been offset by seed sales.
**Also includes additional shovel, grader work and tube setting.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The production per acre for the county the last ten years has ranged from 665 to 1660 pounds of lint per acre. Prices ranged from $.37 to $.60 per pound lint. Yield has been affected by the amount of skip row cotton planted each year, the length of the growing season, pink bollworm and cotton leaf perforator infestations, and weather.

LAND PREPARATION

Cotton usually is grown on raised beds 38 to 42 inches apart. The crop is generally planted in a semi-mulch and irrigated up.

PLANTING DATES AND RATES

Cotton can be planted from March through April. Yields decrease when cotton is planted later than early April. A soil temperature of at least 60 F at a depth of 8 inches is desirable. Spacings within the row of 3 to 12 inches result in approximately the same yields.

VARIETIES

Delta Pine 16 and Stoneville 213 have been successfully grown.

FERTILIZATION

About 250 pounds of nitrogen per acre will produce a good crop on solid planted cotton. Higher rates of nitrogen per acre are required for skip row cotton. The applications should be made before planting, at thinning, and in June and July. Although tests have shown no yield increases due to phosphate application, it is a common practice in some areas.

IRRIGATION

Do not allow the plants to remain wilted for extended periods of time. Acala types require less frequent irrigation.

WEED CONTROL

Several herbicides are now in common use both as preemergence and layby treatments. Consult Weed Control Recommendations - Imperial County.

INSECT CONTROL

The pink bollworm and the cotton leaf perforator are widespread and pose a serious threat to cotton production. The presence of these insect pests results in increased cost for pest control since multiple applications are necessary to keep them in check. The insecticide costs included in this circular could be higher depending upon the presence of these and other pests.

Many pests attack cotton in Imperial County. For the latest control recommendations, consult the Pest Control Recommendations for Imperial County Field Crops.

DISEASE CONTROL

Seedling diseases can reduce cotton stands to the point where replanting may be necessary. The seedling disease problem frequently is more severe where cotton follows sugar beets or alfalfa.

Prepared by
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