

Flood Irrigated Lucerne: Establishment Central Zone

Winter 2009

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS:

Operation	Month	Machinery			Inputs			Total Cost \$/ha
		hrs /ha	Cost \$/hour	Total \$/ha	Rate/ha	Cost \$	Total \$/ha	
Mite control eg: Omethoate (Le-mat®)	June	0.10	29.92	\$2.88	0.10 L	\$33.67/L	\$3.37	\$6.25
Plough	Jan	0.58	27.08	\$15.67				\$15.67
Cultivation	Mar	0.42	24.98	\$10.55				\$10.55
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Pre-sowing weed control eg: Glyphosate 540 (Roundup PowerMax®)	Apr	0.10	29.92	\$2.88	1.00 L	\$10.67/L	\$10.67	\$13.55
Pre-emergent weed control eg: Trifluralin 480g/L	May	0.10	29.92	\$2.88	1.40 L	\$8.05/L	\$11.27	\$14.15
Cultivation - incorporation	May	0.42	24.98	\$10.55				\$10.55
Sowing	May	0.29	33.25	\$9.67	12 kg	\$9.22/kg	\$110.64	\$120.31
Phosphorus fertiliser eg: Single Super	May	with above			250 kg	\$0.59/kg	\$146.25	\$146.25
Irrigation	May				1.50 ML	\$19.74/ML	\$29.61	\$29.61

* Irrigation water price is an average price. Use the variable cost of irrigation water applicable to your situation.

*** Input and crop prices are correct at the time of writing (March 2009). Market uncertainty makes estimation of future pricing impractical.

NOTES:

- Sowing time:**
- Winter establishment is preferable to spring to maximise root development before summer.
 - Seed price used above assumes cost of pre-treatment required (eg insect protection) and inoculation.
- Fertiliser:**
- Adequate phosphorus is critical for successful establishment.
 - Can be applied via a range of products including single super or starter fertiliser.
- Irrigation:**
- This budget is applicable for the Central Zone east, a higher water requirement may be required for the central zone/west than the figures used in this budget.
- Weed control:**
- Incorporation of trifluralin by cultivation may be optional dependent on seedbed preparation method (eg: No-till).
- Insect control:**
- Insect control at establishment included in maintenance budget.
- Machinery:**
- A tractor with 57 kW (77 HP) pto power and 66kW (90 HP) engine power is assumed.
 - Machinery costs refer only to variable costs: fuel, oil, filters, tyres, batteries & repairs.
- Labour:**
- The labour required for machinery operations is 3.11 hrs/ha
 - Using a labour cost of \$14/hr, an additional \$43.56 can be deducted from the budget
 - The Lucerne stand is assumed to last 4 years.
- Important notes:**
- These gross margins are only a guide. They do not include overhead costs.
 - **Use your own figures and price assumptions to estimate your own gross margin.**
 - Use of a particular brand name does NOT imply recommendation of that brand by NSW Department of Primary Industries.