

BITTER MELON - Grown Under Plastic Tunnels  
 Cost Analysis Worksheet - 1986

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Sample costs to produce bitter melon in Fresno County are based on a yield of 1500 20-lb. boxes per acre. Field labor is \$4.00 per hour cost to the grower. Older 30 hp wheel gasoline tractor per hour cash costs \$4.40. Tillage equipment is assumed to be owned by the farmer, and all equipment is already depreciated to a low value. This is considered to be one crop on a 10-acre farm where several vegetable crops are produced. Bitter Melon are usually farmed from March through early November.

	Sample Costs		My Costs	
	Per Acre	Per Box	Per Acre	Per Box
<b>Pre-Harvest Costs:</b>				
Land preparation: 2.5 hrs. labor & tractor	\$ 21.00			
Weed control: 1 hr. labor & tractor	8.40			
Material	40.15			
Pre-plant fertilizer: 1.5 hrs. labor & tractor	12.60			
Material	56.00			
Bedding and plastic laying - contracted out	75.00			
Installation of end posts - middle stakes - 16 hrs. labor	32.00			
Plants - 1,742	122.00			
Planting: 18 hrs. labor	72.00			
Securing plastic to top wire with staples 8 hrs labor	32.00			
String - 2 boxes	30.00			
Plastic - 18000 feet at \$54/4000 feet	235.22			
Venting - 40 hrs. labor	160.00			
Weeding - 40 hrs. labor	160.00			
Fertilizer - nitrogen - \$0.44/lb.(100lbs.)	44.00			
Application - labor 8 hrs.	32.00			
Irrigation - 45 hrs.	180.00			
PG&E power	120.00			
Staking - 24 hrs. labor	96.00			
String - cotton ply - 1.5 box	165.00			
Labor 36 hrs.	144.00			
Insect control material	110.00			
Labor 6 hrs.	24.00			
Bees	24.00			
Rent	250.00			
Repairs	50.00			
Pull stakes and clean -24 hrs. labor	96.00			
Business costs: 6% of pre-harvest costs	143.48			
<b>TOTAL PRE-HARVEST COSTS</b>	<b>\$2534.85</b>	<b>\$1.69</b>		
<b>Harvest Costs:</b>				
Cartons: 1500 at 78¢	\$1170.00			
Labor per box to harvest - 1500 at \$1.25	1800.00			
Packing and grading: 1500 at \$0.25	300.00			
Transportation: 12¢ x 1500	180.00			
<b>TOTAL HARVEST COSTS</b>	<b>\$3450.68</b>	<b>\$2.30</b>		
<b>TOTAL CASH COSTS</b>	<b>\$5984.85</b>	<b>\$3.99</b>		
<b>Depreciation:</b>				
Tractor, equipment, etc., \$3500, 10 yrs. life	\$ 35.00			
Wire Hoops, 5 yrs.	40.00			
End posts, middle stakes, etc., 5 yrs.	43.00			
<b>TOTAL DEPRECIATION</b>	<b>\$ 118.00</b>	<b>\$ .08</b>		

<u>Interest on Investment at 12%</u>		
Tractor, equipment, irrigation equipment	\$ 21.00	
Wire hoops, posts, etc.	63.00	
<b>TOTAL INTEREST ON INVESTMENT</b>	<b>84.00</b>	<b>\$0.05</b>
<b>TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION</b>	<b>\$6186.85</b>	<b>\$4.12</b>

Sample Costs per Carton at Varying Yields

Yield:	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700
20 lb. cartons					
Cash costs per carton	\$4.60	\$4.27	\$3.99	\$3.74	\$3.52
Total costs per carton	\$4.75	\$4.41	\$4.12	\$3.86	\$3.63