

MATURE GREEN TOMATOES, BUSH GROWN PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS 1987-1988

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Hand labor at \$5.50 per hour (\$4.30 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, transportation, supervision and fringe benefits).

Yield--960 25 lb. cartons Growing period--130 days.

OPERATION	CUSTOM RATE	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
LAND PREPARATION						
Stubble disc	17.75					17.75
Subsoil	27.00					27.00
Disc 1x	9.00					9.00
Landplane 2x	9.50					19.00
Border, cross check & break border	15.00					15.00
Flood		Water 1/2 ac/ft	4.50	1	5.50	10.00
Fertilizer (broadcast)	6.00	400# 11-52-0	47.00			
(injected)	11.00	20 gals 10-34-0	28.00			92.00
Disc 2x	9.00					18.00
Float	7.75					7.75
List beds	10.50					10.50
Rototill beds	18.50					18.50
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						226.00
GROWING PERIOD						
Plant & shape beds	15.00	Seed 1# coated	100.00			115.00
Weed control	7.00	Herbicide	17.00			24.00
Sprinkler irrigate						130.00
Thin 2x				32	176.00	176.00
Cultivate 3x	14.00					42.00
Fertilize 2x	12.00	230# N @ .30	60.00			84.00
Hand weed 1x				10	55.00	55.00
Layby herbicide	7.00	Herbicide	2.50			9.50
Irrigate 12x		Water 5 ac/ft	45.00	8	44.00	89.00
Insect control 10x	4.90	Insecticides	125.00			174.00
Disease control 3x	6.00	Fungicide	15.00			33.00
TOTAL GROWING PERIOD						931.50
GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREPARATION COSTS						1157.50
Land Rent (net acres)						225.00
Cash Overhead--		12% of preharvest costs & land rent				165.90
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS						1548.40
HARVEST						
Pick, haul and pack		960 cartons/acre @	4.50 per carton			4320.00
TOTAL ALL COSTS						5868.40

PROJECTED INCOME ABOVE COSTS (PER ACRE)

		price/carton					Breakeven \$/carton
		5.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	9.00	
Cartons	800	-1148	-348	452	1252	2052	6.44
	880	-1108	-228	652	1532	2412	6.26
per	960	-1068	-108	852	1812	2772	6.11
acre	1040	-1028	12	1052	2092	3132	5.99
	1120	-988	132	1252	2372	3492	5.88

MATURE GREEN TOMATOES-BUSH GROWN

1987-1988

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>YIELDS/ACRE (CARTONS)</u>	<u>VALUE/ACRE</u>
1986	746	743	\$ 5259
1985	1019	698	4228
1984	1462	519	3966
1983	1380	880	4620
1982	1360	960	8280

PLANTING DATES: Bush tomatoes are direct seeded from early January through February 15 for May-June harvest. A small acreage may also be seeded in July or August for harvest in winter.

VARIETIES: Hybrids "Jackpot", "Valerie", "Celebrity", and open-pollinated "P-19" are the main varieties grown. However, other varieties resistant to fusarium, verticillium and nematodes are planted on small acreages.

SOILS: Medium to heavy well-drained soils are best. Such soils maintain their moisture content longer and more uniformly than sandy soils. Fields should be low in salinity.

IRRIGATION: Moisture should be maintained as uniformly as possible. Large fluctuations in soil moisture or water stress conditions can be detrimental to plant and fruit development. Sprinklers are used to germinate the seed. They are removed following plant emergence.

FERTILIZERS: Before listing, the normal practice is to broadcast 400 pounds of 11-52-0. Phosphate fertilizer may be also injected into the bed on both sides of the row or under seed row in addition to the broadcast application. After thinning, 150-250 pounds of N are sidedressed and water-run depending on the previous crop. Excess nitrogen results in delayed and uneven maturity.

PEST CONTROL: The primary insect problems are tomato fruit worms, armyworms, tobacco budworms, thrips, aphids, pinworms, stink bugs and cutworms. Alfalfa mosaic, and powdery mildew are the main diseases. Tomato plant decline can be a problem. Do not plant tomatoes in the same field more than two years. Fumigation is required for root knot nematode infested fields, at a cost of \$80.00 per acre. Pre-emergence and layby herbicides are applied. Consult your pest control farm advisors for latest information.

HARVESTING: Most of the fruit is picked in the mature green stage, placed in field trailers or bins and hauled to shed for washing, cooling, grading and packing.