

(7)

CAULIFLOWER 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).

Field--500 25 lb. cartons

Direct seeded

OPERATION	CUSTOM RATE	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
<b>LAND PREPARATIONS</b>						
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 borders	15.00					15.00
Flood		Water 1/2 ac/ft	4.50	1	5.50	10.00
Fertilize	6.00	450# -- 11-52-0	53.00			59.00
Disc 1x	9.00					18.00
Triplane 1x	8.50					8.50
List	10.50					10.50
<b>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION</b>						<b>193.75</b>
<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>						
Incorporate herbicide	18.50	Herbicide	2.39			20.89
Precision plant	13.50	Hybrid seed-1.0# @	125.00/#			138.50
Sprinkler Irrigate						130.00
Thin				10	55.00	55.00
Cultivate 3x	9.75					29.25
Fertilize & furrow out 2x	10.00	150# N @ .30/#	45.00			65.00
Water-run fertilizer 2x		40# N @ .30/#	12.00			12.00
Hand weed				4	22.00	22.00
Irrigate 8x		4 1/2 ac/ft	40.50	8	44.00	84.50
Insect Control 5x	4.90	Insecticides	55.00			79.50
Disease Control 5x	6.00	Fungicide	18.75			48.75
Chop residue	9.75					9.75
<b>TOTAL GROWING PERIOD COSTS</b>						<b>695.14</b>
<b>GROWING PERIOD &amp; LAND PREPARATION COSTS</b>						<b>888.89</b>
Land Rent (net acres)						175.00
Cash Overhead----		12% of preharvest costs & land rent				127.67
<b>TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS</b>						<b>1191.56</b>
<b>HARVEST (Field pack)</b>						
Custom harvest, pack, and haul		500-25 lb. cartons @	4.25/carton			2125.00
<b>TOTAL ALL COSTS</b>						<b>3316.56</b>

PROJECTED INCOME ABOVE COSTS (PER ACRE)  
price/carton

	5.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	9.00	Breakeven \$/carton
Cartons	300	-967	-667	-367	-67	233
	400	-892	-492	-92	308	708
per	500	-817	-317	183	683	1183
acre	600	-742	-142	458	1058	1658
	700	-667	33	733	1433	2133
						8.22
						7.23
						6.63
						6.24
						5.95

## CAULIFLOWER CULTURE

1987-1988

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>YIELD/ACRE (CARTONS)</u>	<u>VALUE/ACRE</u>
1986	3187	442	\$2898
1985	1989	534	3909
1984	1006	712	3046
1983	641	470	3409
1982	NA	NA	NA

**PLANTING AND HARVESTING DATES:** Plantings start in August and continue through October. While most of the cauliflower is direct seeded, transplanting is also used. Cauliflower is usually grown on single rows on 42 inch beds. Natural seed is planted 2-3 inches apart with a precision planter. The stands are thinned to 12-18 inches between plants. Some varieties are grown double row on 42 inch beds. Check with your seedsmen for recommendations. Transplants are placed in premoistened beds and sprinkler irrigated immediately. Cauliflower is harvested from December through February.

**VARIETIES:** Several cauliflower varieties are needed to produce a continuous supply of 'flower' throughout the season. Early varieties include: "Snow Crown", and "Candid Charm"; intermediate varieties include: "SG 741", "Glacier", "Snowball 123", "Matra", "Igloo", "Suprimax", and "White Rock"; late varieties include: "Snowpak" and "Arapaho". Cauliflower seed costs from \$40.00 per pound for the lowest priced open pollinated variety to \$230.00 per pound for the newer hybrids. There are 80,000-140,000 seeds per pound. New varieties are continuously being developed. Proper varietal selection keyed to specific planting dates is crucial for cauliflower. A given variety is highly specific as to maturity periods and varieties out-of-slot will give poor performance. Ricing, light weight, and curd breaking are common defects of improper planting periods or adverse weather.

**SOILS AND IRRIGATION:** Cauliflower performs well on medium to medium-heavy soils, provided there is adequate drainage. On sandy soils, extreme care must be taken not to stress the plants for water or else premature heading may occur. Open pollinated cauliflower of the Snowball Y class requires more water than the vigorous blue-green hybrids. Cauliflower is normally sprinkler irrigated for seedling emergence and then converted to furrow irrigation.

**FERTILIZER:** A 400-500 pound broadcast application of 11-52-0 before listing is normal practice. Some cauliflower varieties require more nitrogen than do others. The standard practice is to apply 200 pounds or more actual nitrogen per acre during the growing season to promote vegetative growth of the outer jacket leaves in order to protect the curds from solar yellowing.

**INSECT, DISEASES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROBLEMS:** Cabbage loopers, armyworms, sugarbeet cyst nematodes, flea beetles and aphids must be controlled. Birds such as horned larks are an early season problem. Wind whip causes girdling and perhaps death of small seedlings just after thinning. Mice may be a problem near harvest. Sooty mold is a surface curd contaminant which frequently occurs near harvest. Downy mildew and bacterial black rot need to be carefully monitored. For the latest information on pest control, consult your local farm advisor or PCA.

**HARVESTING:** Fields are harvested 2-3 times or more depending upon the market. Mature curds six inches or larger are hand harvested and trimmed. The curds are placed on field harvesting machines to be film wrapped and place packed according to size. Nines (9's), 12's, 16's, and 20's are used, but most shippers pack mostly 12's. Currently, all cauliflower is field packed; there are no sheds.