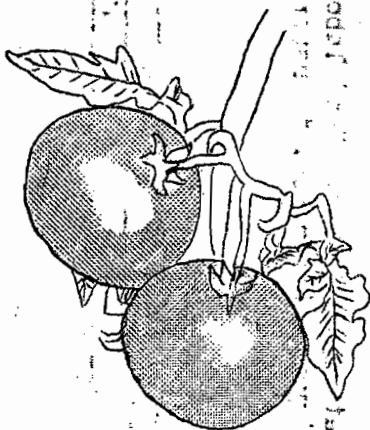


tomatoes
mature green
sample costs
and
production



Agricultural Extension Service
University of California
Imperial County
Court House, El Centro

Cost Data Sheet No. 17

UC Cooperative Extension



MATURE GREEN TOMATOES, OPEN CROWNS--SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Hand labor at \$3.00 per hour (\$2.40 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, transportation, supervision and fringe benefits).

Yield - 8.0 tons or 533 - 30# boxes.

| OPERATION | Custom Rate | MATERIALS | | HAND LABOR | | SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------|------------|---------|-----------------------|
| | | Type | Cost | Hours | Dollars | |
| LAND PREPARATION | | | | | | |
| Plow or subsoil | \$10.00 | | | | | \$ 10.00 |
| Disc 2x | 3.50 | | | | | 7.00 |
| Border & break border | 3.50 | | | | | 3.50 |
| Flood | | water .75 ac ft | 1.73 | 1 | 3.00 | 4.73 |
| Fertilize | 2.50 | 400# 11-48-0 | 24.00 | | | 26.50 |
| Disc 2x | 3.50 | | | | | 7.00 |
| Landplane 2x | 4.00 | | | | | 8.00 |
| Fumigate | 3.50 | fumigant | 19.50 | | | 23.00 |
| Border disc | 5.00 | | | | | 5.00 |
| TOTAL LAND PREPARATION | | | | | | \$ 94.73 |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------|----------------------|-------|----|-------|-----------------|
| GROWING PERIOD | | | | | | |
| Plant & shape beds | 6.00 | seed 1# @ 14.00 | 14.00 | | | 20.00 |
| Block & thin | | | | 22 | 66.00 | 66.00 |
| Cultivate 3x | 8.00 | | | | | 24.00 |
| Fertilize-side-dress 2x | 3.50 | 200# N @ 15¢ | 30.00 | | | 37.00 |
| Hoe 2x | | | | 10 | 30.00 | 30.00 |
| Layby | 3.00 | herbicide | 15.60 | | | 18.60 |
| Irrigate 10x | | water 7 ac ft @ 2.30 | 16.10 | 11 | 33.00 | 49.10 |
| Insect control 12x | 1.75 | insecticides | 60.00 | | | 81.00 |
| GROWING PERIOD | | | | | | \$325.70 |

GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREP. COSTS **\$420.43**

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Land Rent | 90.00 |
| Cash Overhead - 10% of preharvest costs and land rent | 51.04 |
| TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS | \$561.47 |

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| HARVEST | |
| Contract @ \$2.70 per 30# box, including picking, hauling, packing & selling | \$1439.10 |
| TOTAL ALL COSTS AND SELLING | \$2000.57 |

Cost per box = \$3.75

YIELDS

County averages have been from 5 to over 11 tons, although yields of over 15 tons per acre are possible. The Agricultural Commissioner's reports show seasonal average price per ton during the past five years varied from a low of \$241.23 in 1968 to a high of \$259.81 in 1971. Market and weather conditions are many times an important factor in total yields produced.

PLANTING DATES

Open tomatoes are planted from early January through February 15 for an early June harvest. A small acreage may also be seeded in July or August for harvest in winter.

VARIETIES

Earlypak 7 and Ace are the principal varieties grown. However, other varieties resistant to Fusarium, Verticillium, and nematodes are planted on small acreages.

SOILS

Medium to heavy soils that are well drained are generally best. Such soils maintain their moisture content longer and more uniformly than sandy soils.

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.

FERTILIZERS

Before listing, 20-40 pounds nitrogen and 100-200 pounds phosphate are broadcast, although banding of reduced fertilizer rates under the seed is also practiced. After thinning, 150-200 pounds of N are sidedressed, depending on the previous crop. Excess nitrogen results in delayed and uneven maturity.

PESTS AND DISEASES

The primary insect problems are tomato fruit worms, armyworms, thrips, aphids, and pinworms. Curly top virus and fusarium wilt are the chief diseases.

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 and packing.

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