

Ventura 1970

## PIMIENTO PEPPERS

### Yields

Over the past 6 years the average yield for pimiento peppers in Ventura County has usually been between 5 and 8 tons per acre. Yields of 7 and 8 tons per acre are used in this sample.

### Soils and Climate

Pimiento peppers became established in Ventura County many years ago when it was found the soils and climate of the Oxnard Plain were especially well suited for this crop. The crops are usually confined to the best soils of the Oxnard Plain. Because it occupies the land for about 9 months, a relatively high land rent must be charged to this crop. Processors are getting an increasing amount of their pimiento peppers from other areas where a lower land rent can be charged to the crop.

### When to Plant and Harvest

Most pimiento peppers are planted in late March or early April and harvesting is done in September and October. Each field is picked two or three times.

### Planting, Cultivation, and Weed Control

A few years ago all pimiento peppers were planted on the flat in rows 40" apart. The seedbed had enough moisture for germination, and in-the-row weed control was accomplished by "push hoeing" in which a cultivator shovel was used to scrape off weeds that had germinated ahead of the crop. In recent years some growers have been experimenting with planting pimiento peppers 2 rows to a bed with the spacings 14" on the bed and 26" across the furrow. The usual practice is to thin plants to a spacing of 10" in the row. The crop is well suited to mechanical thinning because it is not essential that the plants be evenly spaced and a few doubles are not objectionable.

Where the crop is planted on the flat several cultivations up to the time when the plants are too large to cultivate are used for weed control, and along with cultivation, a small furrow is made in each row space for irrigation.

Peppers are more sensitive to selective herbicides than tomatoes; so chemical weed control is not a general practice in this crop.

## Fertilizing

Although it is a general practice to apply mixed fertilizers to peppers soon after thinning, this crop grown on vegetable land that has been repeatedly fertilized will probably do well with a total of 100 to 150 lbs. of nitrogen per acre. One hundred pounds of this could be injected as aqua ammonia before planting, and 50 lbs. or more could be applied as a side-dressing after the crop was well established.

## Irrigation

In medium textured soils a pepper crop can be allowed to grow to a foot or more in height before the first irrigation. Two more irrigations with the final irrigation scheduled for about 10 days before harvest begins may be sufficient but in some fields it may be advisable to irrigate immediately after the first harvest.

## Pest and Disease Control

Soil fumigation for control of rootknot nematode is advisable. Occasionally fields need to be treated for control of aphids or cutworms. There are usually some losses from verticillium wilt and from one or more virus diseases but control of these diseases is not practical.

# PIMIENTO PEPPERS FOR CANNING, 1969

Yield: 7 Tons/A and 8 Tons/A

Land Use: 9 Months

Remarks: Planted late March

Harvested: September, October and November

	Labor		Cash Costs per Acre		Total per Acre
	Per Hrs.	Acres Cost	Machinery	Contract & Materials	
<b>CULTURAL CASH COSTS</b>		\$	\$	\$	\$
Plow	.68	1.67	2.38		4.05
Disc and roll 2 x	.52	1.27	1.82		3.09
Springtooth harrow 1 x	.16	.39	.56		.95
Landplane 2 x	.52	1.27	1.82		3.09
Furrow for irrigation	.30	.74	.60		1.34
Pre-irrigate	1.25	2.44	.20 ½ A-ft. wtr @ \$5	2.50	5.14
Springtooth harrow 2 x	.32	.78	1.12		1.90
Drag harrow 2 x	.32	.78	1.12		1.90
Fertilize		Contract		100 lb/A Mat'l	15.50
Fumigate 1 yr. in 2		Contract		& applied	18.70
Plant (2 men)	1.00	2.20	.75 Seed 2½ lb. @ \$10	25.00	27.95
Push hoe	.60	1.47	.90		2.37
Thin	10.00	19.50			19.50
Cultivate 4 x	2.40	5.88	3.60		9.48
Hoe 1 x	8.00	13.20			13.20
Fertilize 1 x sidedress	1.00	2.45	1.50 Fertilizer	25.00	28.95
Irrigate 3 x	3.75	7.31	.60 1 A-ft. wtr @ \$5	5.00	12.91
Disc & roll refuse 2 x	.52	1.27	1.82		3.09
<b>Total Cultural Cash Costs</b>		62.62	18.79	91.70	173.11
<b>CASH OVERHEAD</b>					
Land rent	@ \$14.60 per acre-month x 9			131.40	
Taxes on Machinery	@ .24 per acre-month x 9			2.16	
Supervision	@ 5.00 per acre-month x 9			45.00	
General Expense	@ 2.00 per acre-month x 9			18.00	
<b>Total Cash Overhead</b>	@ 21.84 per acre-month x 9				196.56
<b>Total Cash Costs except Harvesting and Selling</b>					369.67
<b>HARVESTING CASH COSTS @ 7 Tons/A</b>					
Pick	110.00	214.50		214.50	
Haul out of field	2.00	4.90	3.00	7.90	
			Charge for picking cans	.50	
<b>Total Harvest Cash Cost</b>					222.90
<b>Total Cultural and Harvest Cash Cost</b>					592.57
<b>INVESTMENT OVERHEAD</b>					
Depreciation	@ \$2.40 per acre month x 9			21.60	
Interest	@ .72 per acre-month x 9			6.30	
<b>Total Investment Overhead</b>	@ \$3.12 per acre month x 9				28.08
<b>Total Cost per Acre @ 7 Tons</b>					620.65
<b>Total Cost per Acre @ 8 Tons</b>					652.49
<b>Total Cost per Ton @ 7 Tons</b>		\$88.66			
<b>Total Cost per Ton @ 8 Tons</b>		81.56			

# PIMIENTO PEPPERS

## CASH FLOW - EXCLUDING LAND RENT AND TAXES

Jan.   Feb.   Mar.   Apr.   May   June   July   Aug.   Sept.   Oct.   Nov.   Dec.

Start  
\$115

Grow  
\$90

Harvest  
\$240

Acres, Yields, and Prices Reported by Ventura Co. Agricultural Commissioner

<u>Year</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>T/A</u>	<u>\$/Ton</u>	<u>\$/A</u>
1962	707	8.2	67.50	554
1963	705	5.4	67.24	363
1964	918	6.4	67.50	430
1965	1000	4.9	70.26	344
1966	850	6.5	90.00	585
1967	416	7.8	81.50	636
1968	591	8.1	93.50	760