

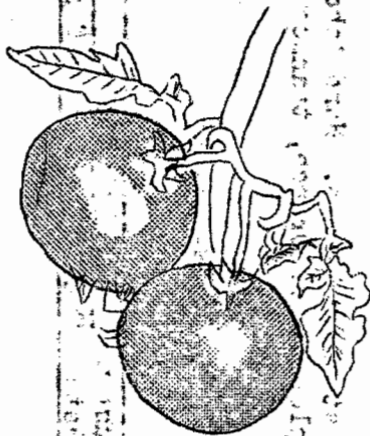
tomatoes

mature green

sample costs

and

production



University of California
Agricultural Extension Service

Imperial County
Court House, El Centro

Cost Data Sheet No. 16

UC Cooperative Extension

VARIETIES

Earlypak 7 and Acre are the standard varieties.

SOILS

Medium to heavy soils are generally best, although they must be well drained. 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 are conducive to blossom end rot and cracking.

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, 80 or more pounds of N are sidedressed, depending on the previous crop. Excess nitrogen results in delayed and uneven maturity. UC Cooperative Extension

PESTS AND DISEASES

The primary insect problems are tomato fruit worms, armyworms 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 boxes and hauled to a shed for washing and packing.

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TOMATOES (MATURE GREEN, OPEN GROWN) -- SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Hand labor at \$2.00 per hour (\$1.50 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, transportation, supervision and fringe benefits.)

Yield - 6 tons or 300 - 40# boxes.

OPERATIONS	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
LAND PREPARATION						
Plow or subsoil	\$ 8.00					\$ 8.00
Disc 2x	2.00					4.00
Border & break border	1.00					1.00
Flood		water .75 ac. ft.	\$1.73		2.00	3.73
Fertilize	1.00	400# 11-48-0	19.00			20.00
Disc 2x	2.00					4.00
Landplane 2x	2.75					5.50
Fumigate	3.00	Fumigant	9.00			12.00
Border disc	5.00					5.00
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						63.23
GROWING PERIOD						
Plant & shape beds	5.00	seed 1# @ 11.00	11.00			16.00
Thin				16	32.00	32.00
Cultivate 3x	3.00					9.00
Fertilize - side-dress	3.00	100# N @ 10¢	10.00			13.00
Hoe 2x				10	20.00	20.00
Irrigate 12x		water 6 ac ft @ 2.30	13.80	6	12.00	25.80
Pest control 4x	2.00	insecticides & fungicides	34.00			42.00
TOTAL GROWING PERIOD						157.80
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS						221.03
HARVEST						
Contract @ \$2.25 per 40# box, including picking, hauling and packing						675.00
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS						675.00
Land rent						65.00
Cash overhead 15% of preharvest and land rent costs, plus 2% of harvest costs						56.40
TOTAL ALL COSTS						\$ 1017.43

Cost per box = \$3.39

The Agricultural Commissioner's reports show seasonal average price per ton during the past five years varied from a low of \$185.00 in 1966 to a high of \$294.60 in 1962.

YIELDS

Yields depend greatly on the number of picks that market conditions warrant. County averages have been 4-6 tons, although yields of over 10 tons per acre are possible.

PLANTING DATES

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