

ESTIMATED COSTS
OF GROWING

DIRECT
SEEDED
ONIONS

IN

SAN JOAQUIN

COUNTY



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

NOTES:

1. The costs that appear in this pamphlet were prepared in cooperation with San Joaquin onion growers and represent an estimate of good cultural practices.
2. Labor rates include cash wages, employer Social Security contributions, workmen's compensation and other non-cash benefits. Hourly labor rates are:
Tractor driver \$1.95; irrigator \$1.80; seasonal \$1.65.
3. Miscellaneous includes items such as insurance, property tax on equipment, use of pickup truck, interest on operating capital, office expenses, replacement of small tools, preparing the field for harvest, field sanitary facilities, etc.
4. Harvest costs do not appear in this pamphlet because most onion growers sell their crop in the windrow, and the buyer bears the harvest costs. Growers who harvest and market their own crop must add 85¢ to \$1.00 per 50# bag for topping, grading, sacking, new sacks, hauling, etc.

SAMPLE COSTS OF GROWING DIRECT-SEEDED EARLY ONIONS
 (Placed in Windrow Ready for Harvest)
 600-Acre Operation with 50 Acres in Onions
 Yield - 700 (50#) Bags Per Acre
 April 1967

Operation	Hours Per Acre	Cash and Labor Costs Per Acre			Cost Per Acre	My Costs
		Labor	Fuel, Repairs	Material, Other Costs (Kind and Amount) Total		
Pre-Harvest Costs						
(Fall)						
Plow	.75	1.46	2.10		3.56	
Disc 2x	.5	.98	1.90		2.88	
Subsoil 2x	1.5	2.93	5.18		8.11	
Landplane 2x	.5	.98	2.18		3.16	
Disc	.25	.49	.95		1.44	
Chisel & harrow	.33	.64	.90		1.54	
Furrow & fertilize (Contract)	-	-	-	300# 16-20-0+\$3.00 appl.	15.00	
Seed (2 men)	1.00	1.95	.53	3# @ \$4.00	12.00	14.48
Weed spray	.33	.64	.58	11# Dacthal	23.00	24.22
Pre-Harvest Costs						
(Spring)						
Cultivats	1.0	1.95	1.55		3.50	
Hoe & thin	8.0	13.20	-		13.20	
Fertilize	.75	1.46	2.25	500# 16-20-0	20.50	24.21
Weed spray	.33	.64	.58	Sulfuric acid	14.00	15.22
Irrigate 4x	4.0	7.20	-	2 ac. ft. @ \$3.75	7.50	14.70
Cultivate 2x	1.5	2.93	2.32		5.25	
Lift onions (knife under bed)	.5	.98	1.08		2.06	
Windrow onions	20.0	33.00	-		33.00	
TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS		71.43	22.10		92.00	185.53
Cash Overhead						
Miscellaneous				See note 3	9.40	
Rent				Cash	75.00	
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD					84.40	
TOTAL CASH COST					269.93	
MANAGEMENT - 5% of \$700 (700 bags @ \$1.00)					35.00	
Annual Cost						
<u>Investment</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>		<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Interest</u>		
Equipment	150.24		13.98	4.51		
Total					18.49	
TOTAL COST PER ACRE					323.42	
Cost per 50# bag @ 700 bags per acre yield					.46	

EQUIPMENT LIST

Item	Original Cost		Years Life	Annual Use (Acres)	Non-Cash Overhead	
	Total	Per Acre			Depre- ciation	Int. at 6%
1 Crawler tractor 75 H.P. - D	22,000	36.67	15	600	2.44	1.10
1 Wheel tractor 65 H.P. - D	9,000	15.00	15	600	1.00	.45
2 Wheel tractors 40 H.P. - D	12,700	21.16	15	600	1.41	.63
2 Cultivators+tool bars 12'	5,600	11.20	10	500	1.12	.34
2 Planter-culti- vator sleds & 10 Seeders	7,500	15.00	10	500	1.50	.45
1 Landplane	3,600	7.20	10	500	.72	.22
2 Discs - 1-12' + 1-18'	4,450	8.90	10	500	.89	.27
1 Chisel 10'	800	1.60	10	500	.16	.05
2 Harrows 1-spring tooth-20' 1-spike tooth-24'	1,650	2.75	10	600	.28	.08
1 Subsoiler - 8'	2,000	5.00	10	400	.50	.15
Siphons	600	1.00	10	600	.10	.03
1 Flat bed trailer	2,000	3.33	10	600	.33	.09
1 Ditcher	400	.67	10	600	.07	.02
1 Tool carrier	1,500	2.50	10	600	.25	.08
1 plow - 2 way 5 bottom - 16'	1,200	3.00	10	400	.30	.09
1 Sprayer (ground- rig)	800	1.60	10	500	.16	.05
1 Truck - 1½ Ton	4,500	7.50	6	600	1.25	.23
1 Pickup	2,500	4.16	5	600	.83	.12
1 Pickup	1,200	2.00	3	600	.67	.06
TOTAL	84,000	150.24			13.98	4.51

Prepared By

Ray C. King
Farm Advisor

145 South American Street
Stockton, California 95202

Philip S. Parsons
Extension Economist

Farm Management
University of California
Davis, California 95616

W. W. Mitchell

Farm Advisor

145 South American Street
Stockton, California 95202

300 copies

April 1967