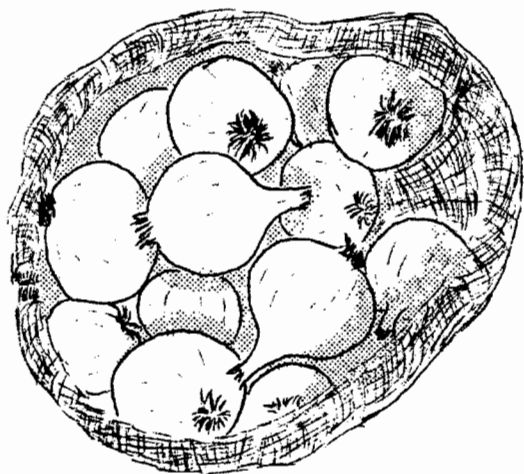


# dehydrator onions

sample costs

and

production



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

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Cost Data Sheet No. 23

UC Cooperative Extension

DEHYDRATOR ONIONS--SAMPLE COSTS AND PRODUCTION

Based on custom rates and 12 and 15 tons/acre

ITEMS	Per Acre	SAMPLE COST	
		Per Ton (@ 12t/a)	Per Ton (@ 15t/a)
<b>LAND PREPARATION</b>			
Plow 1x	8.00		
Disc 1x	2.00		
Land plane 2x	5.00		
Float 2x	3.50		
Border	1.00		
Irrigate 1x	2.00		
Knock down borders	.75		
Disc 2x	4.00		
Broadcast Fertilizer	1.75		
List	2.50		
Ditching	.75		
<b>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION</b>	<b>31.25</b>	<b>2.60</b>	<b>2.09</b>
<b>CULTURAL LABOR &amp; FIELD POWER</b>			
Mulch beds	5.00		
Shape beds and plant	3.00		
Roll Beds	1.25		
Cultivate 2-5x	10.00		
Sidedress fertilizer 3x	6.00		
Weed Control 2x	45.00		
Irrigation 5-10x	15.00		
Ditching & Knocking down ditches	2.50		
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL LABOR &amp; POWER</b>	<b>87.75</b>	<b>7.32</b>	<b>5.85</b>
<b>MATERIALS</b>			
Water 5 acre ft. @ \$4/sec. ft.	10.00		
Seed supplied by Dehydrator			
Fertilizer 233 lb. N + 200 lb. P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	45.65		
Insecticide 1x	4.00		
<b>TOTAL MATERIALS</b>	<b>59.65</b>	<b>4.97</b>	<b>3.98</b>
<b>CASH OVERHEAD</b>			
General expenses (10% of the above)	17.90	1.49	1.19
<b>LAND RENT</b>	<b>65.00</b>	<b>5.42</b>	<b>4.33</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL COSTS</b>	<b>\$261.55</b>	<b>\$21.80</b>	<b>\$17.44</b>

ACREAGE

During 1961-62 approximately 3,100 acres of onions were grown. Of these, 1,609 were for the dehydrators, 1,195 for fresh market and about 300 for seed.

VARIETIES

Only White Creole and Dehydrator Hybrid are grown. These are early maturing, "short day" types especially grown in Imperial County for their earliness in order to begin and also lengthen the processing season. The seed is supplied by the dehydrator companies to their contract growers.

YIELDS

White Creole, which is earliest and has the highest solids content, will yield 12 to 13 tons per acre. Dehydrator Hybrid will yield 15 to 20 tons per acre. A slightly higher price for Creoles tends to offset the difference in yields.

SOIL REQUIREMENTS

Medium-textured sandy loams are the most desirable types. Onions are shallow rooted and need a friable soil in which to easily

expand and one which retains moisture about the roots. Avoid salty, hard, and weed-infested soils.

PLANTING

For best stands, onions need a well prepared seedbed. Most acreage is planted from October 15-25 on beds with 40 or 42 inch centers, 2 to 6 rows per bed spaced 14" center to center. The seed is planted shallow,  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deep, or shallower on easily crusted soils.

Some growers use scatter shoes on their planters. Seedlings will emerge easier on soils which crust easily if the surface is kept wet until after emergence. Rows should run in a north-south direction.

FERTILIZERS

Generally, between 200 and 250 lbs. of actual nitrogen per acre and 144 to 200 lbs. of phosphate are applied. All phosphate and 33 to 50 lbs. of nitrogen are applied before listing followed by 2 or 3 sidedressings of nitrogen.

## IRRIGATION

Onions are germinated by subbing the beds. Until 2 or 3 weeks before intended harvest, they should never suffer for lack of water. Weather and soil conditions determine the number of irrigations. Five to 10 times are normal.

## WEEDS

Weed control, particularly during cool, wet years, may be the most expensive cultural practice. Some fields in 1961-62 cost over \$100 per acre to hoe. Hand weeding and hoeing is still the common practice. Research is continuing on chemical weed control. For the latest information, consult your farm advisor.

## PESTS & DISEASES

Thrips may cause minor damage. Disease problems are presently unimportant. However, pink root (a soil inhabiting fungus) can become serious through importing infected transplants into Imperial County thereby contaminating local soils. To date, a few fields are known to be infested.

For latest information on insect and disease control with precautions on the use of insecticides, consult your farm advisor.

## HARVESTING

Harvest proceeds from May 1 to mid July. When 25% of the tops lay down, the bulbs are undercut and covered with tops and dirt for 4 to 7 days. After being mechanically topped, the bulbs are either dug, put into stub sacks, and loaded or, dug, windrowed, and then loaded. Some dehydrator companies perform the harvesting operations while others pay FOB truck.

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