

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE LETTUCE IN MONTEREY COUNTY - 1976

By J.W. Huffman and E.A. Yeary

Yield: Based on 600-47 lb cartons per acre  
 Harvest: April through October  
 Plant: December 15 through July 15

Total Labor Costs/Hr*	Hourly Tractor Costs			
		Cash Costs	Depreciation	Interest
C1. I Tractor Driver 4.85	80 h.p. Crawler Diesel	7.06	3.13	2.34
C1. II Tractor Driver 4.73	80 h.p. Wheel Diesel	3.44	1.63	.82
Other Labor 3.90	50 h.p. Wheel Diesel	2.26	1.12	.56

Operation	Tractor Used	Hours/Acre	Labor	Fuel & Repairs	Contract and Materials	Total/Acre
<b>CULTURAL</b>						
Cover Crop & Manure					Proportion to Lettuce	30.00
Disc & Roll 3x	C-80	0.69	3.26	4.87		8.13
Chisel 2x	C-80	1.0	4.73	7.06		11.79
Landplane 2x	C-80	0.52	2.46	3.67		6.13
List & Preplant Fertilizer					Contract @ \$4.50/Ac 500# 14-14-14 @ \$45.00	49.50
Shape Beds & Roll	WD-50	0.25	1.18	0.57		1.75
Plant-4 Bed Planter	WD-50	0.50	2.37	1.12	2# Coated Seed @ \$10.00/lb	23.69
Herbicide**					Contract @ \$6.05/Ac Materials, \$9.00	15.05
Irrigate 6X (1 pre, 2 Sprinkler, 3 Furrow)		10.0	39.00	8.00	2 Ac Ft @ \$7.50/Ft for power, \$2.00 booster pump	64.00
Thin		12.5	48.75			48.75
Fertilizer, 2x					Contract @ \$3.75/Ac 180# N @ 0.26 per lb	54.30
Pest Control 3x					Contract @ \$5.00/Ac Materials \$45.00	60.00
Cultivate 5x	WD-50	2.0	9.46	4.52		13.98
Weed		8.0	31.20			31.20
Miscellaneous		4.0	15.60	5.50		21.10

**TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS** 439.37

Overhead

Business Costs: Office & Business Expense, etc, @ 7% Cultural Costs	30.76
Taxes: Equipment, except Tractors	9.10
Rent: \$300.00/Ac, 6 Months to Lettuce	150.00

**TOTAL OVERHEAD COSTS** 189.86

**TOTAL CULTURAL AND OVERHEAD COSTS** 629.23

Harvest

Harvesting - Contract @ \$1.80 per Carton (includes selling cost)	1080.00
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**TOTAL HARVEST COSTS** 1080.00

**TOTAL CULTURAL, OVERHEAD AND HARVEST COSTS** 1709.23

ANNUAL COSTS	Investment	Per Acre	Depreciation	Interest-8%
50% Charged to Lettuce,	Buildings	50.00	2.50	2.00
Tractors are on an Hourly Basis	Irrig. System	90.00	9.00	3.60
	Tractors	150.00	10.00	6.71
	Equipment	100.00	10.00	4.00
	Portable Irrig. Sys.	25.00	2.50	1.00
		<u>415.00</u>	<u>34.00</u>	<u>17.31</u>
	6 Months (Except Tractors and Equipment) to Lettuce			41.01

**TOTAL COST PER ACRE** 1750.24  
**COST PER CARTON** 2.92

SAMPLE COSTS OF PRODUCTION AT VARYING YIELDS

YIELD-CARTONS PER ACRE	400	500	600	700	800
Cost to Grow	629.23	629.23	629.23	629.23	629.23
Harvest Costs @ \$1.80/ctn.	680.00	850.00	1020.00	1190.00	1360.00
Annual Costs	41.04	41.04	41.04	41.04	41.04
<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</b>	<b>1390.27</b>	<b>1570.27</b>	<b>1750.27</b>	<b>1930.27</b>	<b>2110.27</b>
<b>Cost Per Carton</b>	<b>3.48</b>	<b>3.14</b>	<b>2.92</b>	<b>2.76</b>	<b>2.64</b>

Management has not been included as a cost of production in this study. It may be as much as 5% of the farm value of the crop.

\* Labor costs per hour include fringe benefits paid by the farmer. FDI, social security, workman's compensation, unemployment, health plan, vacation and pension plan.

\*\* Herbicide: Kerb® applied at planting in 6" bands over the seed line at the rate of 1½ lbs a.i. per treated acre was the most commonly used material to control weeds in lettuce in 1976. Overhead or sprinkler irrigation is essential to the performance of this material.

For weeds not controlled by Kerb®, a Balan®-Chemhoe® combination is preferred. This is a preplant soil incorporated operation and results in uniformly shaped rows and an excellent seed bed. This operation costs about \$22.73 per acre. This includes \$11.50 (contract) for incorporation and \$11.23 for materials, 3 pints Balan® (1.5 lbs a.i. per treated acre) and 3 quarts Chemhoe® (0.56 lbs a.i. per treated acre). Either furrow or overhead irrigation can be followed with this combination.