

CALLIFLOWER
PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS
1985-1986

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Hand labor at \$5.50 per hour (\$4.30 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, transportation, supervision and fringe benefits).

Yield--500 25-lb. cartons

OPERATION	CUSTOM RATE	Type	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR--		COSTS Per Acre
				Cost	Hours	Dollars	
LAND PREPARATIONS							
Subsoil	25.00						25.00
Disc 2x	9.00						18.00
Border, cross check & break borders	14.25						14.25
Flood		Water 3/4 ac/ft	6.75		1	5.50	12.25
Fertilize	6.00	450# -- 11-48-0	56.00				62.00
Disc 2x	9.00						18.00
Triplane 2x	8.25						16.50
List	9.25						9.25
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION							175.25
GROWING PERIOD							
Incorporate herbicide	18.25	Treflan	2.82				21.07
Precision plant	12.25	Hybrid seed-1.00 @	125.00/#				137.25
Sprinkler Irrigate							125.00
Thin					10	55.00	55.00
Cultivate 3x	9.50						28.50
Fertilize & Furrow out 3X	9.50	150# N @ .35/#	52.50				81.00
Water-run fertilizer		400# N @ .35/#	14.00				14.00
Hand weed					4	22.00	22.00
Irrigate 8x		4 1/2 ac/ft	40.50		8	44.00	84.50
Insect Control 5x	4.50	Insecticides	55.00				77.50
Disease Control 5x	4.50	Fungicide	15.00				37.50
Stubble Disc 1x	17.00						17.00
TOTAL GROWING PERIOD COSTS							700.32
GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREPARATION COSTS							875.57
Land Rent (net acres)							175.00
Cash Overhead---		12% of preharvest costs & land rent					126.07
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS							1176.64
Harvest							
Custom harvest, pack, haul to cooler and sell		500 25lb. cartons @	4.50/carton				2250.00
TOTAL ALL COSTS							3426.64

PROJECTED INCOME ABOVE COSTS (PER ACRE)
price/carton

		price/carton					Breakeven \$/carton
		5.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	9.00	
Cartons	300	-1027	-727	-427	-127	173	8.42
	400	-977	-577	-177	223	623	7.44
per	500	-927	-427	73	573	1073	6.85
acre	600	-877	-277	323	923	1523	6.46
	700	-827	-127	573	1273	1973	6.18

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
Court House

El Centro

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
(619) 339-4250

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture, University of California and Imperial County cooperating

In accordance with applicable Federal laws and University policy, the University of California does not discriminate in any of its policies, procedures or practices on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, age, veteran status, medical condition (as defined in section 12926 of the California Government Code), or handicap. Inquiries regarding this policy may be directed to the Personnel Studies and Affirmative Action Manager, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2120 University Avenue, Berkeley, California 94720, (415) 644-4270.

ACREAGE: About 3200 acres according to the Agricultural Commissioner's Office. Official figures are not released yet.

PLANTING AND HARVESTING DATES: Plantings start in August and continue through October. While much of the cauliflower is direct seeded, transplanting is becoming more popular. Cauliflower is usually grown on single rows on 42 inch beds. Natural seed is planted 2-3 inches apart with a precision planter such as Stanhay®. The stands are thinned to 14-18 inches between plants. Some varieties are grown double row on 42 inch beds. Check with your seedsmen for recommendations. Transplants are placed in premoistened beds and sprinkler irrigated immediately. Cauliflower is harvested from December through February.

VARIETIES: Several cauliflower varieties are needed to produce a continuous supply of 'flower' throughout the season. Early varieties include: Veralto, Snow Crown, and Candid Charm; intermediate varieties include: SG 741, Glacier, Snowball 123, Matra, Igloo, Suprimax, and White Rock; late varieties include: Snowpak and Arapaho. Cauliflower seed costs from \$40.00 per pound for the lowest priced open pollinated variety to \$225 per pound for the newer hybrids. There are 80,000-140,000 seeds per pound. New varieties are continuously being developed. Proper varietal selection keyed to specific planting dates is crucial for cauliflower. A given variety is highly specific as to maturity periods and varieties out of slot will give poor performance. Ricing, light weight, and curd breaking are common defects of improper planting periods or adverse weather.

SOILS AND IRRIGATION: Cauliflower performs well on medium to medium-heavy soils provided there is adequate drainage. On sandy soils, extreme care must be taken not to stress the plants for water or else premature heading may occur. Open pollinated cauliflower of the Snowball Y class requires more water than the vigorous blue-green hybrids. Cauliflower is normally sprinkler irrigated for seedling emergence and then furrow irrigation is used.

FERTILIZER: Preplant fertilizer application should provide 200 lbs. P_2O_5 /Ac. plus 40-60 lbs of nitrogen. A 400-500 lb. broadcast application of 11-48-0⁵ before listing a normal practice. Some cauliflower varieties require more nitrogen than do others. The standard practice is to apply 200 lbs. or more actual nitrogen per acre during the growing season to promote vegetative growth of the outer jacket leaves in order to protect the curds from solar yellowing.

INSECT, DISEASES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROBLEMS: Cabbage loopers, armyworms, sugarbeet cyst nematodes, flea beetles and aphids must be controlled. Birds such as horned larks are an early season problem. Wind whip causes girdling and perhaps death of small seedlings just after thinning. Mice may be a problem near harvest. Downy mildew and bacterial black rot need to be carefully monitored. For the latest information on pest control, consult your local farm advisor or PCA.

HARVESTING: Fields are harvested 2-3 times or more depending upon the market. Mature curds six inches or larger are hand harvested and trimmed. The curds are placed on field harvesting machines to be film wrapped and place packed according to size. Nines (9's), 12's, 16's and 20's are used, but most shippers pack mostly 12's. Currently, all cauliflower is field packed; there are no sheds.

Normal yield range from 300-600 cartons per acre. A yield of 1000 cartons per acre would be outstanding.