

Mature Green Tomato Projected Production Costs 1989-1990

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Hand labor at \$5.75 per hour (\$4.50 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, transportation, supervision and fringe benefits).

Yield-- 960 25-lb. cartons. Growing period--130 days.

| OPERATION | CUSTOM RATE | MATERIALS | | HAND LABOR | | COSTS Per Acre |
|--|-------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|---------|----------------|
| | | Type | Cost | Hours | Dollars | |
| LAND PREPARATION | | | | | | |
| Stubble disc | 18.25 | | | | | 18.25 |
| Subsoil | 29.50 | | | | | 29.50 |
| Disc 1x | 9.50 | | | | | 9.50 |
| Landplane 2x | 10.00 | | | | | 20.00 |
| Border, cross check & break border | 15.00 | | | | | 15.00 |
| Flood | | Water 1/2 ac/ft | 5.50 | 1 | 5.75 | 11.25 |
| Fertilizer (broadcast) | 6.00 | 400# 11-52-0 | 54.00 | | | 60.00 |
| (injected) | 10.50 | 20 gals 10-34-0 | 32.00 | | | 42.50 |
| Disc 2x | 9.50 | | | | | 19.00 |
| Float | 8.25 | | | | | 8.25 |
| List beds | 18.50 | | | | | 18.50 |
| TOTAL LAND PREPARATION | | | | | | 251.75 |
| GROWING PERIOD | | | | | | |
| Plant & shape beds | 16.75 | Seed 1# coated | 100.00 | | | 116.75 |
| Weed control | 8.00 | Herbicide | 12.00 | | | 20.00 |
| Sprinkler irrigate | | | | | | 135.00 |
| Thin 2x | | | | 32 | 184.00 | 184.00 |
| Cultivate 3x | 14.00 | | | | | 42.00 |
| Fertilize 2x | 12.00 | 200# N @ .31 | 62.00 | | | 86.00 |
| Hand weed 1x | | | | 10 | 57.50 | 57.50 |
| Layby herbicide | 17.50 | Herbicide | 2.50 | | | 20.00 |
| Irrigate 12x | | Water 5 ac/ft | 55.00 | 8 | 46.00 | 101.00 |
| Insect control 10x | 5.00 | Insecticides | 90.00 | | | 140.00 |
| Disease control 3x | 6.00 | Fungicide | 15.00 | | | 33.00 |
| TOTAL GROWING PERIOD | | | | | | 935.25 |
| GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREPARATION COSTS | | | | | | 1187.00 |
| Land Rent (net acres) | | | | | | 225.00 |
| Cash Overhead-- | | 12% of preharvest costs & land rent | | | | 169.44 |
| TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS | | | | | | 1581.44 |
| HARVEST | | | | | | |
| Pick, haul, pack and sell | | 960 cartons/acre @ | 4.50 per carton | | | 4320.00 |
| TOTAL ALL COSTS | | | | | | 5901.44 |

PROJECTED INCOME ABOVE COSTS (PER ACRE)

| | | price/carton | | | | | Breakeven \$/carton |
|---------|------|--------------|-------|------|------|------|---------------------|
| | | 4.00 | 5.00 | 6.00 | 7.00 | 8.00 | |
| Cartons | 800 | -1981 | -1181 | -381 | 419 | 1219 | 6.48 |
| | 900 | -2031 | -1131 | -231 | 669 | 1569 | 6.26 |
| per | 1000 | -2081 | -1081 | -81 | 919 | 1919 | 6.08 |
| acre | 1100 | -2131 | -1031 | 69 | 1169 | 2269 | 5.94 |
| | 1200 | -2181 | -981 | 219 | 1419 | 2619 | 5.82 |

MATURE GREEN TOMATOES - BUSH GROWN
1989-1990

| <u>YEAR</u> | <u>ACRES</u> | <u>YIELD/ACRE (CARTONS)</u> | <u>VALUE/ACRE</u> |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1988 | 835 | 1292 | \$5259 |
| 1987 | 683 | 1204 | 9511 |
| 1986 | 746 | 743 | 5259 |
| 1985 | 1019 | 698 | 4228 |
| 1984 | 1462 | 519 | 3966 |

PLANTING DATES: Bush tomatoes are direct seeded from early January through February 15 for May-June harvest. A small acreage may also be seeded in July or August for harvest in winter.

VARIETIES: Hybrids "Jackpot", "Valerie", "Celebrity", and open-pollinated "P-19" are the main varieties grown. However, other varieties resistant to fusarium, verticillium and nematodes are planted on small acreages.

SOILS: Medium to heavy well-drained soils are best. Such soils maintain their moisture content longer and more uniformly than sandy soils. Fields should be low in salinity.

IRRIGATION: Moisture should be maintained as uniformly as possible. Large fluctuations in soil moisture or water stress conditions can be detrimental to plant and fruit development. Sprinklers are used to germinate the seed. They are removed following plant emergence.

FERTILIZERS: Before listing, the normal practice is to broadcast 450 pounds of 11-52-0. Phosphate fertilizer may be also injected into the bed on both sides of the row or under seed row in addition to the broadcast application. After thinning, 150-200 pounds of N are sidedressed and water-run depending on the previous crop. Excess nitrogen results in delayed and uneven maturity.

PEST CONTROL: The primary insect problems are tomato fruit worms, armyworms, tobacco budworms, thrips, leafminers, aphids, pinworms, stink bugs and cutworms. Alfalfa mosaic, and powdery mildew are the main diseases. Tomato plant decline can be a problem. Do not plant tomatoes in the same field more than two years. Fumigation is required for root knot nematode infested fields. Pre-emergence and layby herbicides are applied. Consult your pest control farm advisors for latest information.

HARVESTING: Most of the fruit is picked in the mature green stage, placed in field trailers or bins and hauled to shed for washing, cooling, grading and packing.