

FALL CANTALOUPE--PROJECTED COSTS--1980

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--175 crates per acre (7.5 tons). 85-90 days to maturity.

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR*		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre	YOUR COSTS
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars		
LAND PREPARATION							
Subsoil	18.00					\$ 18.00	
Disc 2x	6.50					13.00	
Border, cross check & break borders	11.50					11.50	
Flood		Water 3/4 ac/ft	3.94	1	5.50	9.44	
Fertilize	3.00	200# 11-48-0	29.00			32.00	
Disc 2x	6.50					13.00	
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						\$ 96.94	
GROWING PERIOD							
Run flat beds	7.25					\$ 7.25	
Plant	6.00	Seed 1 1/2# @5.00/#	7.50			13.50	
Thin				5	27.50	27.50	
Cultivate 2x	7.50					15.00	
Fertilize & furrow out 1x	7.50	60# N @32¢	19.20			26.70	
Pollination		Hives 1 1/2 @13.00	19.50			19.50	
Weed 1x				4	22.00	22.00	
Irrigate 3x		Water 2 ac/ft	10.50	8	44.00	54.50	
Pest Control 3x	3.65	Pesticides, Fungicides	30.00			40.95	
TOTAL GROWING PERIOD						\$ 226.90	
GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREPARATION COSTS						\$ 323.84	
Land Rent						150.00	
Cash Overhead--10% of preharvest costs & land rent						47.38	
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS						\$ 521.22	
HARVEST							
Pick, haul, pack & crate 175 crates @6.00						\$1050.00	
TOTAL ALL COSTS						\$1571.22	

Cost per crate = \$8.98 @ 175 crates/Ac
Cost per crate = \$8.61 @ 200 crates/Ac

* Includes shovel labor, pipe setting and miscellaneous tractor work.

INCOME ABOVE ALL COSTS PER ACRE

Price Per Crate

Crates Per Acre	Price Per Crate				
	\$ 8.00	9.00	10.00	11.00	12.00
150	- 221	- 71	+ 79	+ 229	+ 379
175	- 171	+ 4	+ 179	+ 354	+ 529
200	- 121	+ 79	+ 279	+ 479	+ 679
225	- 71	+ 154	+ 379	+ 604	+ 829
250	- 21	+ 229	+ 479	+ 729	+ 979

FALL CANTALOUPE CULTURE

1980

<u>YEAR*</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>YIELD/ACRE (TONS)</u>	<u>VALUE/TON</u>
1975	7,400	5.32	\$ 280
1976	8,850	6.37	249
1977	9,440	6.56	214
1978	12,370	8.80	207
1979	9,788	6.84	266

PLANTING DATES: The fall crop is generally planted during the last two weeks of July through the first two weeks in August for harvest in mid-October and November. The melons are planted on flat beds to reduce sun exposure.

VARIETIES: Nearly all of the acreage is planted to Topmark. The remainder of the acreage is PMR 45. New hybrids like Topscore are being tried on a small scale. Topmark and Topscore are sulfur resistant; PMR 45 is not.

SOILS: Well-drained soils are preferred. Sandy or silt loams are sometimes selected for the earliest crop. Cantaloupe fields are widely scattered. Fall melons are planted on alternate N-S, forty-inch beds. Later in the season, the beds are widened to 80 inches by splitting the off-beds.

IRRIGATION: Sprinkler irrigation may be used to germinate the crop at a cost of \$110/acre. After planting, the beds are subbed past the seed line. The last irrigation is scheduled about one week prior to harvest. During this time, excessive moisture may increase ground spotting, rotted and soft fruit.

FERTILIZER: Two hundred pounds of 11-48-0 may be applied before listing (if needed). Sixty pounds of nitrogen are sidedressed in one application. Fall melons tend to grow larger than the spring planted crop. Size is controlled by spacing, nitrogen fertility and irrigation practice. Some growers apply the preplant fertilizer as liquid ammonium phosphate (10-34-0 or 0-52-0) injected next to the seedlines.

POLLINATION: One bee hive per acre is required. Some growers use 1 1/2 hives per acre. The bees should be distributed on at least two sides of a 40 acre field.

PESTS AND DISEASES: Fall cantaloupes are subject to fewer pest problems than spring melons. Nematodes, cutworms, aphids, mites, loopers, leafhoppers, leafminers, ground beetles, crickets, mosaic virus and powdery mildew may be problems. Consult your farm advisor for pest control information.

HARVESTING: Fall cantaloupes are hand harvested in October and November. The fruit are picked at the full slip stage. After hauling to a shed, they are sorted and graded in wood crates holding 23, 27, 36, 45 or 54 melons. Cartons may be used instead of the standard wood crate. Cartons hold 9, 12, 18 or 23 melons. The crates are hydrocooled or forced-air cooled prior to shipment.

SPECIAL PRACTICES: Root knot nematodes can cause serious damage to melons if not controlled by soil fumigation. The normal charges for fumigation are \$5.50 for application and \$35.50 for material.

*Spring and Fall acres combined.