

CABBAGE PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS 1987-1988

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

Yield--500 cartons per acre 50 lbs. per carton 100-120 days to maturity Headstart variety

OPERATION	CUSTOM RATE	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
LAND PREPARATION						
Stubble disc	17.75					17.75
Subsoil	27.00					27.00
Disc 1x	9.00					9.00
Landplane 2x	9.50					19.00
Border, cross check & break borders	15.00					15.00
Flood		Water 1/2 ac/ft	4.50	1	5.50	10.00
Fertilize	6.00	450# 11-52-0	53.00			59.00
Disc 2x	9.00					18.00
Triplane 1x	8.50					8.50
List	10.50					10.50
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						193.75
GROWING PERIOD						
Incorporate herbicide	18.50	Herbicide	2.39			20.89
Sprinkler irrigate						130.00
Precision plant	13.50	Seed @ 3" spacing	147.00			160.50
Thin				10	55.00	55.00
Cultivate 3x	9.75					29.25
Fertilize & furrow out 2x	10.00	120# N @ .30	36.00			56.00
Water-run fertilizer		60# N @ .30	18.00			18.00
Hand weed 1x				12	66.00	66.00
Irrigate 6x		Water 3 1/2 ac/ft	31.50	7	38.50	70.00
Insect control 7x	4.90	Insecticides	115.00			149.30
Disease control	4.90	Fungicides	7.00			11.90
Stubble disc 1x	17.75					17.75
TOTAL GROWING PERIOD						784.59
GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREPARATION COSTS						978.34
Land Rent (net acres)						175.00
Cash Overhead-----		12% of preharvest costs & land rent				138.40
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS						1291.74
HARVEST COSTS						
Custom harvest: cut, pack, and haul		500 cartons @	3.10 /ctn.			1550.00
TOTAL ALL COSTS						2841.74

PROJECTED INCOME ABOVE COSTS (PER ACRE)
price/ 50 lb. carton

Cartons per acre		price/ 50 lb. carton					Breakeven \$/carton
		4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	
	500	-842	-342	158	658	1158	5.68
	600	-752	-152	448	1048	1648	5.25
	700	-662	38	738	1438	2138	4.95
	800	-572	228	1028	1828	2628	4.71
	900	-482	418	1318	2218	3118	4.54

CABBAGE CULTURE

1987-1988

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>YIELD/ACRE (CARTONS)</u>	<u>VALUE/ACRE</u>
1986	519	432	\$ 1844
1985	915	444	2085
1984	353	599	10326
1983	800	253	1310
1982	467	530	2658

PLANTING DATES: Cabbage is planted from mid-September through October. Harvesting begins in December and continues through February. The fate of the cabbage market depends largely on the amount of cabbage harvested in coastal California and Texas. Oversupply depresses prices rapidly to the point where harvesting is impractical; low supplies, however, can create windfall prices. Cabbage is a very high risk crop!

VARIETIES: The standard green variety is "Headstart". Some "Tasty" is also grown. "Rubyball" is the standard hybrid red variety. Open pollinated "Red Meteor" is an alternate choice.

PLANTING & SPACING: Standard double-row 42-inch beds are used. The seed is precision planted with a precision planter at 2 inch spacing in-row. At a seeding depth of 1/4 inch. The rows are 13 inches apart. When the plants have 2-3 true leaves, the seedlings are thinned to 12 inches apart.

IRRIGATION: Sprinkler irrigation is used to germinate the crop. Once the seedlings have emerged, the field is furrow irrigated. Cabbage grows well on medium and moderately heavy soil.

FERTILIZERS: Four hundred fifty pounds of 11-52-0 broadcast prior to listing is standard practice. Sidedress applications of nitrogen with ammonium nitrate or UAN32 solutions at a rate of 60-80 lbs. N/acre are common.

PEST CONTROL: Watch for crickets, cutworms, flea beetles, saltmarsh caterpillars, aphids, thrips, and cabbage looper. Once the insect burrows into the heads, chemical control will be nearly impossible. Cabbage should not follow sugar beets due to possible cyst nematode infection. Downy mildew may require control in some years. For the latest information on pest control consult your farm advisor.

HARVESTING: Fields are hand harvested and packed 24 heads per 50 pound in bulge packed cartons. The average yield varies according to price, but it may reach 1000 cartons per acre. Normally yields are low due to lack of sales. Cooling and palletizing are paid by the receiver.