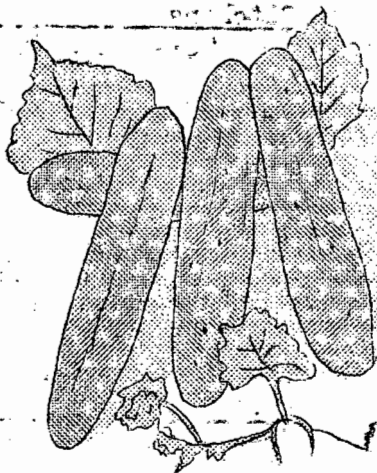


cucumbers--

sample costs

and

production



University of California  
Agricultural Extension Service  
Imperial County  
Court House, El Centro

Cost Data Sheet No. 5

UC Cooperative Extension

CUCUMBERS--SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
<b>LAND PREPARATION</b>	
Plow 1x	\$ 8.00
Disc 2x	3.50
Float 1x	1.50
Border	.75
Irrigate 1x	1.00
Knock down borders	.75
Disc 1x	1.75
Float 1x	1.50
Fertilizer (pre-plant)	2.00
Bedding	5.00
Ditching	.75
<b>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION</b>	<b>26.50</b>
<b>CULTURAL LABOR AND POWER</b>	
Mulch beds	4.00
Planting 1x	3.00
Cultivating 6x	21.00
Irrigating 8x	10.00
Thin, replant & weed	15.00
Fertilizer application 3x	9.00
Turning vines	18.00
Setting irrigation pipes	6.00
Pest control 5x	10.00
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL LABOR AND POWER</b>	<b>96.00</b>
<b>MATERIALS</b>	
*Water 3 acre ft.	6.00
Fertilizer--organic & commercial	20.00
Seed 2 lbs.	3.50
Insecticides	18.00
<b>TOTAL MATERIALS</b>	<b>\$ 47.50</b>

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
<b>CASH OVERHEAD</b>	
General expenses 8% of above	\$ 14.00
<b>LAND RENT (1/2 year)</b>	<b>35.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL COSTS</b>	<b>\$219.00</b>
<b>NOTE:</b> For spring maturing cucumbers add \$150.00 for the cost of caps and capping, extra labor for weeding and higher rent. Labor costs are based on \$1.05 per hour wage.	

**CLIMATE**

Cucumbers are a warm weather crop and grow best when temperatures are above 80°F. Cucumbers require frost protection during December, January, and February.

**SOILS**

Cucumbers can be grown successfully on most of the soil types in Imperial County. Sandy and sandy loam soils are preferred.

**ACREAGE**

The acreage rarely exceeds 500 acres per year. Only 353 acres were grown in 1960-1961 season.

**PLANTING DATES**

Fall harvested cucumbers are planted in August. Cucumbers for spring harvest are planted in December and harvested late in March or early in April.

\*IID sells water at \$4.00 sec. ft.

## LAND PREPARATION

Crop history will determine the type of land preparation followed. (See table)

## VARIETIES

The most popular variety is Marketer with limited plantings of Colorado and Straight 8.

Ashley is a new variety that is high yielding with good market qualities.

## YIELD

Average yield is 575 crates per acre.

## IRRIGATION

The first irrigation is applied after the beds have been formed. When the beds have dried, they are mulched and shaped with a V shaper on the south side and planted.

After planting, the beds are irrigated to insure good germination. When the plants begin to run and set fruit, the irrigation schedule is about every two weeks

At harvest time, most growers irrigate every three to five days. A good supply of moisture in the beds during the growing season is very important.

## FERTILIZATION

Cucumbers should receive 90 to 120 lbs. of phosphate applied ahead of bed formation. Eighty to 100 lbs. of nitrogen are applied in split applications. Half the nitrogen before bed formation, and the rest sidedressed after runners are formed.

Ten tons per acre of steer manure has given good results. Manure should be applied before plowing or discing and first irrigation. Manure should have time to decompose somewhat before planting. When plants form first runners, sidedress with 40 to 50 lbs. of nitrogen.

## PESTS AND DISEASES

Growers should inspect their fields regularly for insects and diseases. Cutworms, aphids, leafhoppers, leafminers, and red spider mites are the most serious pests of cucumber.

Seedling diseases, nematodes, powdery mildew, and virus diseases are the most serious on cucumbers. Consult the Vegetable Crop Pest and Disease Control Guide for Imperial County for the latest recommendations. Copies are available at your Farm Advisors' office.

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July-1962

Co-operative Extension work in Agriculture and Home Economics, College of Agriculture, University of California, and United States Department of Agriculture co-operating.

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