

CABBAGEYields

Yields of cabbage as reported by the Ventura County Agricultural Commission over the past 7 years ranged from 22,000 lbs. to 29,800 lbs. per acre. Yields of cabbage are not given in packages per acre because of the use of at least 2 kinds of packages and the wide range in weight per package. However, these yield figures in terms of 60 lb. cartons of 2 dozen heads represent a range of 300 to 500 cartons per acre.

Varieties and Seed

Round Dutch has been the principal cabbage variety here for a number of years, but its position is being threatened by some of the many new varieties of hybrid cabbage now on the market. Cabbage growers and shippers are in the process of trying these new varieties to find which of them will excel Round Dutch and also to learn when each of the new varieties can be grown to advantage.

Soil and Climate

The soil and climate of the Oxnard Plain are suitable for growing cabbage for harvest at any time of the year. However, most of the cabbage in Ventura County is harvested in the cooler part of the year.

When to Plant and Harvest

A tentative planting schedule for cabbage is found on page 27. This schedule shows not only the predicted harvest date for each planting date but also the rate of planting required for a uniform rate of harvest.

Planting, Cultivating, and Weed Control

Increasing acreages of cabbage are being precision planted, fields with single plants spaced at 2 to 3 inches apart are suitable for use of the synchronous mechanical thinner. Advantages of precision planting are (1) less damage to plants at thinning time, (2) lower costs of hand thinning, (3) a stand suitable for the synchronous mechanical thinner, (4) saving of seed.

Soil incorporated pre-plant herbicides are being used with varying degrees of success. And one herbicide has been found satisfactory when applied without incorporation at planting time. Cultivation and hoeing are still practical weed control practices.

Fertilizing

Because cabbage heads larger than those required for the 2-dozen carton of 65 lbs. are objectionable and may be of little retail value, it is important to avoid excessive amounts of nitrogen for this crop. In many fields the crop will get off to a satisfactory start without any fertilizer at planting time and 50 to 100 lbs. of nitrogen applied after thinning seems to be adequate. Phosphorus applied under the seed at planting time in the cooler part of the year may make maturity more uniform.

Irrigation

Following irrigation for germination and another irrigation just after thinning, another 2 or 3 irrigations are usually adequate.

Pest and Disease Control

Aphids and worms are the principal insect pests of cabbage. Systemic insecticides are effective against early aphid infestations. Frequent field observations are necessary to decide on timing of and materials for subsequent pesticide treatments. Sugar beet nematodes are present in most fields used for cabbage. Damage from this pest is seldom recognized and it is not expected to be serious in the cooler part of the year. It is advisable to watch summer cabbage for this pest.

TENTATIVE PLANTING SCHEDULE FOR CABBAGE

In our attempt to develop planting schedules for several vegetable crops, I collect records of planting and harvest dates, and Dr. Thomas M. Little, UC Extension biometrician, processes the data to give estimates of acres to plant for a constant rate of harvest and of harvest dates.

Planting and harvest date records for developing the table below are provided by Leo Gisler and Pleasant Valley Vegetable Co-op. for 1965 through 1968.

These figures are for Round Dutch or other varieties needing the same time to mature.

Planting Date	Acres to Plant/Week for Harvesting 10 A/Wk	Date of First Harvest
July 15	16.5	Sept 10
22	17.1	Oct 1
29	17.4	15
5	17.7	27
Aug 12	18.0	Nov 9
19	18.0	19
26	18.0	Dec 4
2	17.8	17
Sept 9	17.4	28
16	17.1	Jan 12
23	16.6	22
30	16.1	Feb 4
7	15.3	14
Oct 14	14.6	25
21	13.7	Mar 8
28	12.9	16
4	12.0	25
Nov 11	11.0	Apr 1
18	10.1	9
25	9.2	16
Dec 2	8.2	23
9	7.3	30

CABBAGE, 1969

Yield: 500 Cartons and 600 Cartons Land Use: 5 Months

Remarks: Most cabbage is planted from August through January and harvested from January through May

	Labor		Cash Costs per Acre		Total per Acre
	Per Hrs.	Acres Cost	Machinery	Contract & Materials	
CULTURAL CASH COSTS		\$	\$	\$	\$
Plow	.68	1.67	2.38		4.05
Disc and Roll 2 x	.52	1.27	1.82		3.09
Landplane 2 x	.52	1.27	1.82		3.09
Springtooth harrow 2 x	.32	.78	1.12		1.90
Furrow & fertilize with disyston, Contract (Material & applied)				32.00	32.00
Plant	.60	2.64	.90	Seed 2 lb. @ \$12 24.00	27.54
Roll beds	.25	.61	.38		.99
Cultivate 3 x	1.80	4.41	2.70		7.11
Thin				Contract 30.00	30.00
Fertilize	.80	1.96	1.20	200 lb. NH ₃ NO ₃ 8.80	11.96
Hoe	8.00	15.60			15.60
Pest Control 3 x Contract (Mat'l and applied) 3 x \$13				39.00	39.00
Irrigate 4 x	10.00	19.50	.80	1½ A-ft. wtr @ \$5 7.50	27.80
Disc & roll refuse 2 x	.52	1.27	1.82		3.09
Total Cultural Cash Costs		50.98	14.94	141.30	207.22
CASH OVERHEAD					
Land rent	@ \$14.60 per acre-month x 5			73.00	
Taxes on Machinery	@ .24 per acre-month x 5			1.20	
Supervision	@ 5.00 per acre-month x 5			25.00	
General Expense	@ 2.00 per acre-month x 5			10.00	
Total Cash Overhead	@ 21.85 per acre-month x 5				109.20
Total Cash Costs except Harvesting and Selling					316.42
HARVESTING AND SELLING CASH COSTS					
Cut, pack and haul 500 cartons @ \$1.20				600.00	
Selling 10% x 2.15 x 500				107.50	
Total Harvest Cash Cost and Selling Cost					707.50
Total Cultural, Harvest, and Selling Cash Costs					1023.92
INVESTMENT OVERHEAD					
Depreciation	@ \$2.40 per acre-month x 5			12.00	
Interest	@ .72 per acre-month x 5			3.60	
Total Investment Overhead @ 3.10 per acre-month					15.60
Total Cost per Acre @ 500 Cartons/A					1039.52
Total Cost per Acre @ 600 Cartons/A					1181.02
Total Cost per Carton @ 500 Cartons/A		\$2.08			
Total Cost per Carton @ 600 Cartons/A		1.97			

CABBAGE

CASH FLOW - EXCLUDING LAND RENT AND TAXES

July Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May June

Start
\$70

Grow
\$135

Harvest
\$580

Acres, Yields and Sales/A Reported by Ventura Co. Agricultural Commissioner

<u>Year</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Tons /A</u>	<u>\$/A</u>	<u>\$/Ton</u>
1962	2221	14.9	1120	75.26
1963	2172	11.0	385	35.00
1964	2754	13.0	611	47.00
1965	2580	11.5	643	56.00
1966	2280	12.0	721	60.00
1967	2325	12.5	670	53.60
1968	2440	12.0	625	52.00