

CANTALOUPE

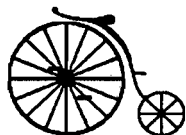
Fall

CN-SE-90-1

Imperial County

1989 - 1990

University of California
Cooperative Extension



UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

CN-SE-90-1 **Ball Cantaloupes 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--350 cartons per acre. 85-90 days to maturity. Topmark variety

OPERATION	CUSTOM RATE	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
LAND PREPARATION						
Stubble disc 1x	18.25					18.25
Subsoil 1x	29.25					29.25
Disc 1x	9.50					9.50
Landplane 2x	10.00					20.00
Border, cross check & break borders	15.00					15.00
Flood		Water 1/2 ac/ft	5.50	1	5.75	11.25
Fertilize	4.50	300# 11-52-0	40.50			45.00
Disc 2x	9.50					19.00
Triplane 1x	8.75					8.75
List flat beds	11.50					11.50
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION COSTS						169.25
GROWING PERIOD						
Plant & shape	12.00	Seed 1 1/2# @ 6.50	9.75			21.75
Thin				5	28.75	28.75
Cultivate and reshape 2x	18.00					36.00
Fertilize & furrow out 1x	10.50	60# N @ .31	18.60			29.10
Pollination		Hives 1 1/2 @ 18.00	27.00			27.00
Hand weed 1x				6	34.50	34.50
Irrigate 3x		Water 2 ac/ft	22.00	8	46.00	68.00
Water run fertilizer		60# N @ .31	18.60			18.60
Insect control 4x	4.50	Insecticides	36.00			54.00
Disease control 2x	5.00	Fungicides	14.50			24.50
Disc out beds	9.50					9.50
TOTAL GROWING PERIOD						351.70
GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREPARATION COSTS						520.95
Land Rent (net acres)						175.00
Cash Overhead-----		12% of Preharvest costs & land rent				83.51
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS						779.46
HARVEST (Field pack)						
Pick, pack, haul and sell		350 cartons @	2.70	per carton		945.00
TOTAL ALL COSTS						1724.46

		PROJECTED INCOME ABOVE COSTS (PER ACRE)					Breakeven \$/carton
		price/carton					
		4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	
Cartons	300	-389	-89	211	511	811	5.30
	350	-324	26	376	726	1076	4.93
per	400	-259	141	541	941	1341	4.65
acre	450	-194	256	706	1156	1606	4.43
	500	-129	371	871	1371	1871	4.26

**FALL CANTALOUPE CULTURE
1989-1990**

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>YIELD/ACRE (CARTONS)</u>	<u>VALUE/ACRE</u>
1988	9556	335	\$1562
1987	9168	284	1310
1986	10350	183	944
1985	7243	266	1413
1984	4536	430	2324

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 until frost. The melons are planted on flat beds to minimize excessive heat to the seedlines.

VARIETIES: "Topmark" is a popular open pollinated variety. "Topscore", "Easyrider", "Aragon", "Mission", Highline" and "Caravelle" are hybrid varieties which may be used.

SOILS: Well-drained medium-textured soils are preferred. 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: After planting, the beds are subbed past the seedline. Sprinkler irrigation is occasionally used to germinate the crop at a cost of \$135/acre. The last irrigation is scheduled about one week prior to harvest. During this time, excessive moisture may increase ground spotting, rotted and soft fruit.

FERTILIZERS: Three hundred pounds of 11-52-0 may be applied before listing (as needed). Sixty to eighty 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 fertilizer and irrigation practice. Some growers apply the preplant fertilizer as liquid ammonium phosphate (10-34-0) or phosphoric acid (0-52-0) injected next to the seedlines.

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

PEST CONTROL: Most growers rely solely on cultivation and hoeing for weed control.

Fall cantaloupes are subject to fewer insect problems than spring melons. Nematodes, cutworms, aphids, mites, loopers, leafhoppers, leafminers, ground beetles, crickets, infectious yellows, fusarium fruit rot, sudden wilt 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. Field packing is the standard practice. Melons are sorted and graded into cartons holding 9, 12, 18, or 23 melons. The crates are forced-air cooled prior to shipment. Cooling and palletizing are paid by the receiver.

GUIDELINES TO PRODUCTION COSTS AND PRACTICES
IMPERIAL COUNTY CROPS, CIRCULAR 104
 1989 - 1990

CUSTOM RATE CHARGES

<u>HEAVY TRACTOR WORK</u>	<u>PRICE/ACRE</u>
Plow	\$ 24.75
Subsoil 2nd Gear	29.25
Disc, Regular	9.50
Disc, Stubble	18.25
Float	8.25
Triplane	8.75
List, Regular	11.50
List, and Rerun 80" Melon Beds	22.00
Reshape 80" Melon Beds	10.00
Landplane	10.00
Chisel	20.75
 <u>PLANTING AND CULTIVATING</u>	
Plant and Shape Melon Beds	16.75
Precision Plant 42" Beds	14.50
Plant Carrots	13.75
Plant Onions	16.75
Cultivate 4-Row 42" Beds	10.75
Cultivate Melon Beds	14.00
Spike and Furrow Out (2 row)	10.50
Lilliston	9.50
Furrow out alone	8.00
Move N-Side 80" Beds for Irrigation	9.50
 <u>INCORPORATING, BORDER AND BED WORK</u>	
Power Incorporate herbicides	20.25
Border, Cross checks and Break Borders	15.00
Bust Melon Beds	9.00
Roll Beds	5.00
 <u>FERTILIZER APPLICATION</u>	
Broadcast Fertilizer	6.00
Inject Fertilizer (Flat)	9.00
Fertilize and Furrow Out 42" Beds	10.50
Fertilize and Furrow Out 80" Beds	10.50
 <u>IRRIGATION</u>	
Custom Sprinkle	135.00-145.00
 <u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>	
Motor Grader/Hour	42.75
Chop Broccoli, Corn Stalks, Etc.	10.00
Water truck/Hour	34.00
Cultipacker	6.00
Ground Spray Pesticides (4 Row)	7.00
Aerial Spray 5 Gal. (Insecticides)	4.50
Aerial Spray 10 Gal. (Fungicides)	5.00