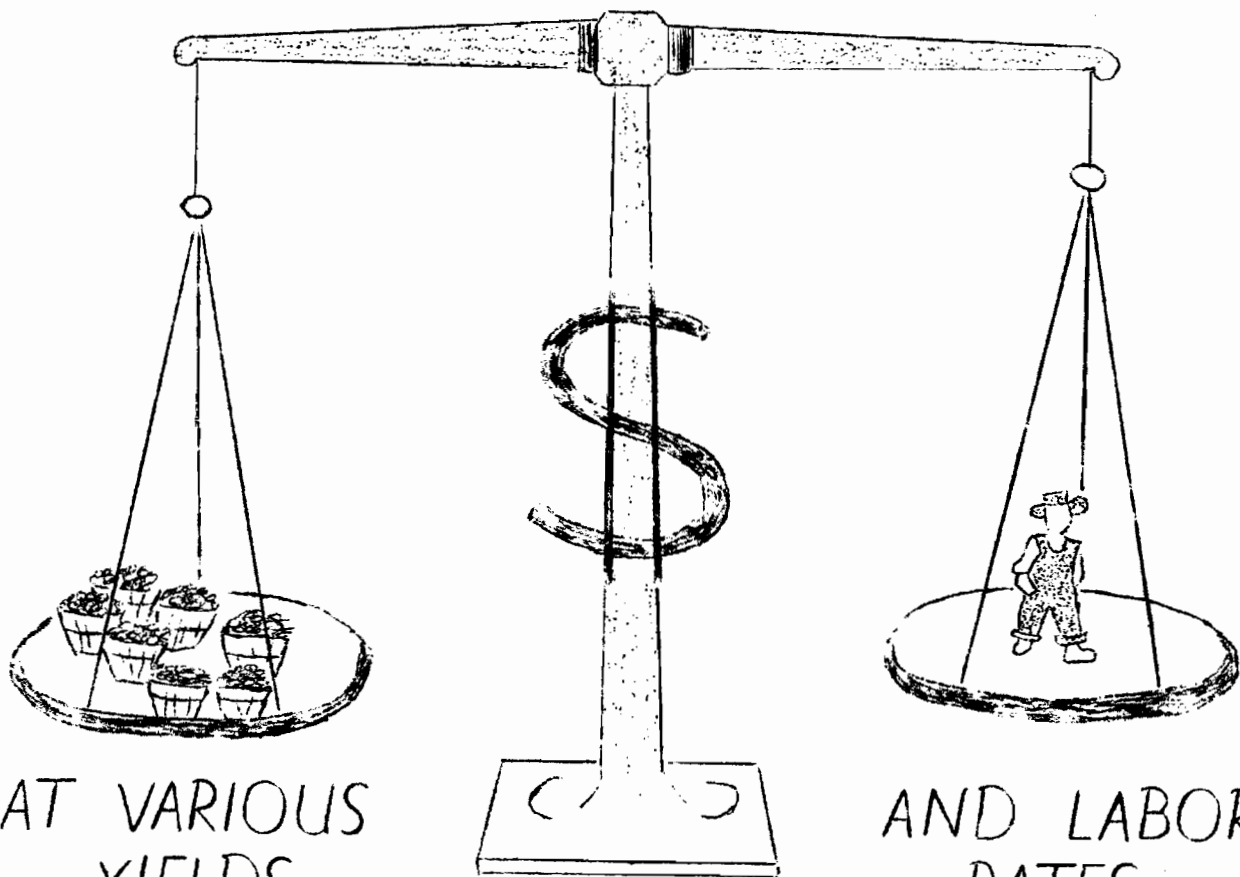


COSTS TO PRODUCE

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
SAN MATEO COUNTY

APRIL 1965

BRUSSELS SPROUTS



AT VARIOUS
YIELDS

AND LABOR
RATES

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COSTS TO PRODUCE BRUSSELS SPROUTS
AT VARIOUS YIELDS AND LABOR RATES

Philip Parsons, Extension Economist, Farm Management
and
R. H. Sciaroni, Farm Advisor, San Mateo County

In view of the termination of the Mexican National (Bracero) Farm Labor Program, Brussels sprouts producers are greatly concerned about the possibility of a severe labor shortage and higher wages. At the request of the Brussels Sprouts Program Committee, the authors have revised the cost study for this crop.

The revision contains information on three different wage rates as follows:

	<u>Common Labor Per Hour</u>	<u>Skilled Labor Per Hour</u>
(1)	\$1.44	\$1.90
(2)	1.61	2.07
(3)	1.78	2.24

Included in these rates are workmen's compensation, social security, and other fringe costs. A complete breakdown of labor requirements in man hours per acre per month and task is also shown.

In addition to rising costs for labor, growers are also faced with a higher investment for equipment. A typical equipment and irrigation investment for growing 75 acres of Brussels sprouts is included with this report.

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE BRUSSELS SPROUTS IN SAN MATEO COUNTY

Labor

Skilled-\$2.07; Common-\$1.61

Yield-6½ tons or 13,000 lbs.

Spacing-26" x 36"

40 H.P. C.D. Tractor = \$1.50 per hr.

30 H.P. Wheel tractor = .95 per hr.

Operation	Hours Per Acre	Cash and labor cost per acre			Total
		Labor	Fuel and repairs	Materials Kind and Quantity Cost	
CULTURAL COSTS					
Land preparation	6.0	\$12.42	\$13.80		\$ 26.22
Growing plants	.5	.81		Seed, fertilizer, soil fumigation, insecticides \$13.00	13.81
Pulling plants	12.0	19.32			19.32
Setting plants by machine-6M	6.0	10.12	2.00		12.12
Cultivate	4.0	8.28	4.40		12.68
Hoe and weed	6.0	9.66			9.66
Irrigate	13.0	20.93	1.00	Power to pump (2 pumps) 14.00	35.93
Fertilize 2M	4.0	7.36	2.20	1500 lbs. 10-10-10 46.50	56.06
				5 T manure applied 42.50	42.50
				3 shots N in irrig. water 15.00	15.00
PEST CONTROL					
Spray 2X contract				Guthion 15.00	15.00
Spray 2X	2.0	4.14	4.50	Systox 10.00	18.64
Spray 6X	6.0	12.42	13.50	Parathion, phosdrin 45.00	70.92
Dust 4X	3.0	6.21	3.90	Parathion 16.00	26.11
Fumigation (contract)				D-D or Telone 60.00	60.00
TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS 62.5*		\$111.67	\$45.30	\$277.00	\$433.97
HARVEST COSTS					
Pick	260.0	418.60			418.60
Haul, clean, trim	73.0	117.53		Trucking, bin rental 22.75	140.28
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS 333.0**		536.13		22.75	558.88
CASH OVERHEAD					
Misc., office, etc.					49.64
Promotion, research					12.00
Rent (cash)					80.00
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD					141.64
TOTAL CASH COST					\$1,134.49
Depreciation on tenant's field and irrigation equipment					\$101.35
Interest on tenant's field and irrigation equipment					23.38
TOTAL COST PER ACRE					\$1,259.22
Cost per pound @13,000 lb. yield					9.69¢

Per Ton \$193.73

* The 62.5 hours of cultural labor are made up of 38.5 hours of common and 24.0 hours of skilled labor.

** The 333 hours of harvest labor is all common.

COSTS TO PRODUCE BRUSSELS SPROUTS AT VARIOUS YIELDS AND LABOR RATES

Common Labor - \$1.44 per hour; Skilled Labor - \$1.90 per hour

Yield Per Acre (Tons)	4	5	6-1/2	7	8
Cost Per Ton	\$248.86	\$214.54	\$182.86	\$175.32	\$163.07
Cost per Pound	12.4¢	10.7¢	9.1¢	8.8¢	8.2¢

Common Labor - \$1.61 per hour; Skilled labor - \$2.07 per hour

Yield Per Acre (Tons)	4	5	6-1/2	7	8
Cost Per Ton	\$261.07	\$226.05	\$193.73	\$186.03	\$173.52
Cost Per Pound	13.1¢	11.3¢	9.7¢	9.3¢	8.7¢

Common Labor - \$1.78 per hour; Skilled Labor - \$2.24 per hour

Yield Per Acre (Tons)	4	5	6-1/2	7	8
Cost Per Ton	\$273.27	\$237.55	\$204.59	\$196.74	\$183.98
Cost Per Pound	13.7¢	11.9¢	10.2¢	9.8¢	9.2¢

ESTIMATED REGULAR AND TEMPORARY LABOR REQUIREMENTS
MAN HOURS PER ACRE BY MONTHS, BY TASK

Regular farm workers include the farm operator, his family, and workers employed on more or less permanent positions.

Temporary farm worker includes those employed on a temporary basis to do seasonal work.

MONTH	TASK	REGULAR	TEMPORARY
March thru April	Seedbed preparation and growing of transplants - <u>seedbed area only.</u>	.5	
May and June	Land preparation	6	
	Pulling plants		12
	Plant	1	5
	Fertilize	1	
	Cultivate	2	
	Hoe and weed		6
	Irrigate		5
July and August	Pest control	3	
	Cultivate	2	
	Irrigate		4
	Fertilize	1	
Sept. thru Dec.	Pest Control	4	
	Irrigate		4
	Pest control	4	
	Fertilize	2	
	Harvest		260
	Hauling, cleaning, trimming	10	63
	TOTAL	36.5	359

TYPICAL EQUIPMENT AND IRRIGATION INVESTMENT FOR GROWING 75 ACRES OF BRUSSELS SPROUTS

40 HP C.D. tractor	\$12,000	Chisel cultivator	\$ 1,200
30 HP wheel tractor	3,800	Stalk chopper	800
Pickup truck (2)	5,500	Bee Gee scraper 10'	1,200
Disk 10-1/2'	1,500	Tool carrier	800
Plow 4 bottom	1,000	Irrigation pipe trailer	400
Cultipacker 12'	840		
Spike harrow or float	300	Total	<u>\$47,640</u>
Duster 10 row	1,300	Pumps	
Sprayer S.P.	4,600	30 HP to pump from supply point	3,500
Transplanter 3 row	1,200	30 HP booster	3,500
Liquid fertilizer injector	300	Sprinkler pipe	
Lime spreader	400	1,800 ft. of 6" @\$1.15	2,070
Miscellaneous equipment	2,000	2,600 ft. of 4" @ .70	1,820
Truck 2-1/2 ton (with body)	6,000		
Grader line	2,500	Total	<u>\$10,890</u>
		<u>TOTAL INVESTMENT</u>	<u><u>\$58,530</u></u>