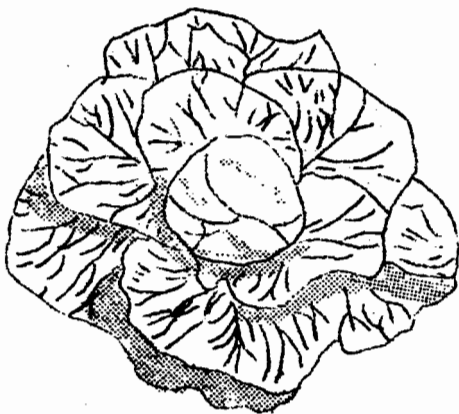


cabbage
sample costs
and
production



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

Cost Data Sheet No. 12

UC Cooperative Extension

CABBAGE--PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Hand labor at \$3.75 per hour (\$3.00 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, transportation, supervision and fringe benefits).

Yield - 500 50# cartons per acre. (12.5 tons) 60-100 days to maturity.

OPERATION	Custom	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR*		SAMPLE COSTS
	Rate	Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	Per Acre
LAND PREPARATION						
Subsoil	\$ 12.50					\$ 12.50
Disc 2x	4.50					9.00
Border & Break border	4.50					4.50
Flood		Water .75 ac ft	2.63	1	3.75*	6.38
Fertilize	3.00	400# 11-48-0	40.00			43.00
Disc 2x	4.50					9.00
Landplane 2x	5.00					10.00
List	5.00					5.00
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						\$ 99.38

GROWING PERIOD						
Herbicide 1x	3.00		13.50		Prefar®	16.50
Plant (Precision)	7.00	Seed 2# @ 6.00	12.00			19.00
Thin				16	60.00	60.00
Cultivate 3x	5.00					15.00
Fertilize - side-dress 3x	4.50	200# N @ 25¢	50.00			63.50
Weed				8	30.00	30.00
Sprinkler Irrigate		Rent	35.00	9	33.75	68.75
Irrigate 8x		4 1/2 ac ft	15.75	18	67.50*	83.25
Pest Control 10x	3.00	Insecticides	90.00			120.00
GROWING PERIOD						\$ 476.00

GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREP COSTS						\$ 575.38
Land Rent (New lease)						150.00
Cash Overhead - 12% of preharvest costs and land rent						87.05
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS						812.43

HARVEST						
Custom Harvest, pack haul to cooler						500 50# ctn. @ \$2.00
TOTAL ALL COSTS						\$1812.43

Cost per carton = \$3.62

*Includes shovel labor, pipe setting and miscellaneous tractor work.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>YIELD/ACRE</u> <u>(TONS)</u>	<u>VALUE/TON</u>
1970	940	19.00	\$ 94.70
1971	620	11.77	50.54
1972	620	12.26	86.97
1973	470	14.04	93.79
1974	1200	10.25	65.04

YIELDS: Yields of 800 cartons per acre are occasionally produced. Total yields are influenced by market conditions at harvest time. Several cuttings are not unusual.

PLANTING: Most acreage is planted from September 10-25 on beds with 42 inch centers and two rows per bed. Seed is planted 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep at 2 pounds per acre. Plants thinned 12 to 14 inches apart. Cabbage seed will germinate between 40-95 F. (Optimum 85 F)

***VARIETIES:** Only early maturing varieties for the fresh market are planted. Varietal strains of Copenhagen Market, Banner and Headstart predominate. Hybrid seed sells for \$45.00 per pound whereas open pollinated lines run about \$6.00 per pound. In warm weather, cabbages tends to bolt producing soft elongate heads.

SOIL

A medium textured soil with good drainage and water holding capacity is desirable. Lighter soils are easier to manage during the colder months than heavy ones. Cabbage has a greater salt tolerance than lettuce, carrots or onions.

*IRRIGATION

At no time after thinning should plants be stressed for water. Normally, 6 to 8 irrigations are adequate. The irrigation labor costs listed also include shovel work, pipe setting and grader expense.

FERTILIZE

All the phosphate fertilizer should be broadcast before listing. Apply the additional nitrogen in two sidedressings.

WEED CONTROL

Several herbicides are registered for use on cabbage. These are applied preemergence to the cabbage. Consult the weed control Farm Advisor for specific recommendations.

PESTS AND DISEASES

Cabbage diseases cause relatively little damage in Imperial County. Intumescences can occur as wart-like projections on leaves as the result of sand blasting. Damping off at the seedling stage may also be a problem.

Cabbage loopers, armyworms, salt marsh caterpillars, cutworm, sugar beet nematodes, flea beetles and aphids can cause extensive damage unless controlled. For the latest information on insect control along with precautions on the use of insecticides, consult your Entomology Farm Advisor.

HARVESTING

Fields are harvested from one to several times December through March. Heads are cut, trimmed, and packed in the field, or cut, loaded into wagons, and hauled to packing sheds built along the edge of fields.

Prepared by
Imperial County
Agricultural Extension Staff

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California Agricultural Extension