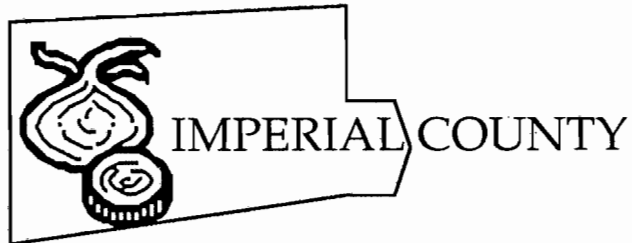


ON-SI-90-1

MARKET ONION PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS

1989-1990



**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Market Onion Projected Production Costs 1989-1990

Mechanical operation at custom rates. Hand labor at \$5.75 per hour (\$4.50 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, transportation, supervision and fringe benefits).

Yield--800 50 lb. sacks per acre 150+ days to maturity Imperial Sweets

OPERATION	CUSTOM RATE	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
LAND PREPARATION						
Stubble disc	18.25					18.25
Subsoil	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	6.00	450# 11-52-0	61.00			67.00
Disc 2x	9.50					19.00
Triplane 1x	8.75					8.75
List	11.50					11.50
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						209.50
GROWING PERIOD						
Power mulch beds 1x	18.50					18.50
Precision plant	16.75	Coated seed	117.00			133.75
Apply herbicide	8.00	Herbicide	33.75			41.75
Sprinkler irrigate						145.00
Cultivate 3x	10.75					32.25
Fertilize & furrow out 2x	10.50	120# N @ .31	37.20			58.20
Water-run fertilizer		60# N @ .31	18.60			18.60
Weed control 2x	8.00	Herbicide	15.30			31.30
Hand weed 1x				9	51.75	51.75
Irrigate 6x		Water 4 1/2 ac/ft	49.50	13	74.75	124.25
Disease control 3x	5.00	Fungicides	45.00			60.00
Insect control 5x	5.00	Insecticides	35.00			60.00
Disc beds 1x	9.50					9.50
TOTAL GROWING PERIOD						784.85
GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREPARATION COSTS						994.35
Land Rent (net acres)						200.00
Cash Overhead-----		12% of preharvest costs & land rent				143.32
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS						1337.67
HARVEST						
Dig, top, haul, grade, sack and sell		800 sacks @	3.25 per sack			2600.00
TOTAL ALL COSTS						3937.67

PROJECTED INCOME ABOVE COSTS (PER ACRE)

	price/ 50 lb. sack					Breakeven \$/sack
	4.00	4.50	5.00	5.50	6.00	
Sacks per acre	600	700	800	900	1000	
	-888	-813	-738	-663	-588	
	-588	-463	-338	-213	-88	
	-288	-113	62	237	412	
	12	237	462	687	912	
	312	587	862	1137	1412	
	5.48	5.16	4.92	4.74	4.59	

MARKET ONION CULTURE-IMPERIAL SWEETS
1989-1990

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>YIELD/ACRE (SACKS)</u>	<u>VALUE/ACRE</u>
1988	3120	679	\$ 2417
1987	3291	818	8594
1986	2544	852	3186
1985	3273	591	2453
1984	3069	524	2522

PLANTING: Most acreage is direct seeded from Mid-October to Mid-November. Forty-two inch beds with 4 to 6 lines are used. Some plantings have been made with three lines on narrow beds.

VARIETIES: Onions are sensitive to day length and temperature. Only the early maturing, short day types are grown. The most popular varieties are: "Rio Hondo", "Goldrush", "Henry's Special", "Colossal", "Ringer", "Texas Early Grano 502", "White Supreme" and "Red Grano". Texas Grano and other ringer types are produced for the fried onion ring market. Some fields qualify to be marketed as "Imperial Sweets".

SOILS: Medium-textured sandy loams are the most desirable soils. Onions are shallow rooted and need a friable soil which retains moisture, especially after cultivation. Avoid salty, hard, or weed-infested soils.

IRRIGATION: Onions should never suffer from lack of water. Stressing onions for water before maturity may cause splitting and increases their pungency. Weather and soil conditions determine the number of irrigations (usually 7-12). Irrigation costs include shovel work, pipe setting, and motor grading.

FERTILIZER: Generally four hundred fifty pounds of 11-52-0 are broadcast prior to listing. One hundred fifty to 200 pounds of nitrogen are applied during the growing season.

PEST CONTROL: Mites, thrips, armyworms, leafminers, maggots, downy mildew, purple blotch, and nematodes may be problems. Pink root is a soil-borne disease affecting onions; crop rotation and resistant varieties should be used to suppress the problem.

Herbicides are commonly applied pre-emergence. Consult your farm advisor for the latest recommendations.

HARVESTING: Harvesting takes place from late March through May after 25% of the tops have fallen over. Bulbs are dug, hand topped and sacked in burlap for 3-5 days to cure. The sacks are then dumped into bulk trucks and hauled to sheds for grading, re-sacking, loading and shipping.

Mechanical harvesting is also practiced. The field equipment is similar to that used in dehydrator onions with a topper, digger and sorter. The major difference is that the sorter contains high speed whirling blades that trim roots and excess tops prior to sacking.

Field packing is also being practiced. Burlap sacks of cured onions are sorted, sized and packed on field harvest machines making a packing shed unnecessary. The major sizes packed are jumbo, mediums, and repackers.

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

CUSTOM RATE CHARGES

HEAVY TRACTOR WORK

PRICE/ACRE

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

PLANTING AND CULTIVATING

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

INCORPORATING, BORDER AND BED WORK

Power Incorporate herbicides	20.25
Border, Cross checks and Break Borders	15.00
Bust Melon Beds	9.00
Roll Beds	5.00

FERTILIZER APPLICATION

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

IRRIGATION

Custom Sprinkle	135.00-145.00
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MISCELLANEOUS

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