

WHAT WILL IT COST YOU TO GROW SNOWBALL CAULIFLOWER?

Based on yield of 700 crates per acre*

Items	Sample Costs		Your Costs	
	Per Acre	Per Crate	Per Acre	Per Crate
Land Preparation				
Disc - 1X	\$ 1.50			
Plow - 1X	3.50			
Harrow or spring tooth - 2X	2.50			
Float - 1X	1.25			
List or furrow out	1.50			
Total Land Preparation	10.25	.01		
Transplant and Irrigate	27.00	.04		
Cultural Labor and Field Power				
Cultivate and furrow - 5X	7.50			
Hoe and weed - 1X	10.00			
Irrigation - 9X	9.00			
Fertilize - 2X	2.50			
Pest Control - 5X	7.50			
Miscellaneous	5.00			
Total Cultural Labor	41.50	.06		
Materials				
Water - 20"	15.00			
Plants - 13,000	20.00			
Fertilizer - Commercial-125# N	21.00			
Pest Control - Dust	20.00			
Miscellaneous	5.00			
Total Materials	81.00	.12		
Cash Overhead Costs				
General expense - 5%	7.99			
Taxes	2.00			
Repairs	2.00			
Insurance	1.50			
Total Cash Overhead	13.49	.02		
Depreciation	2.00			
Interest on Investment or Rent	50.00	.07		
Total Costs up to Harvest	225.24	.32		
Harvest Costs				
Pick	56.00	.08		
Haul to Road Side or Shed	14.00	.02		
Total Harvest Costs	70.00	.10		
TOTAL ALL COSTS	295.24	.42		

* 12 heads per crate - 37# net weight

Figure your own costs in the last two columns.

UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Snowball Cauliflower Production in Los Angeles County

General: Snowball Cauliflower is one of the major crops grown in Los Angeles County and moves into the local, shipping, and freezing markets. Though some cauliflower is produced year around, the bulk of the crop is harvested from October 1st through January 15th. This study therefore is concerned with this fall and winter harvest.

Costs shown in this study are not intended to be average for the industry. They are intended to serve as a guide to show how costs can be broken down, and to provide a basis of comparison for the growers' own costs.

1. Variety: Many strains of snowball cauliflower are grown in the County. This study was made of the "Snowball" variety as it is the variety most generally grown for the fall and winter crop.
2. Planting: Seedbeds for transplants are planted around the 1st of July and the seedling plants are ready for transplanting in mid August. Transplanting is done either by hand into the side of the furrow or by machine in the bottom of the furrow. Though many acres are planted by hand, machine planting is becoming the general practice because it is cheaper. Most growers felt that machine planting was more uniform as to depth and placed the plants down into moist soil, giving the transplant a faster start. This contrasts sharply with the irregular hand setting which often leaves the plants in relatively dry soil.
3. Fertilizer: On the average 125# of nitrogen per acre produces good quality cauliflower. This figure will of course vary from ranch to ranch, where different soil types are involved.
4. Irrigation: The number of irrigations applied by individual growers ranged from 6 to 15 per crop. The soil type and climatic factors of temperature and rainfall also influence this figure.
5. Pest control: The major job of pest control is to prevent the build-up of aphid and cabbage worms. The grower who falls behind in this control program suffers a loss in quality and yield.