

# CABBAGE PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS 1992-1993

CB-SI-93

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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--500 cartons per acre 50 lbs. per carton 100-120 days to maturity. Hybrid variety

OPERATION	CUSTOM RATE	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		COST Per acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
<b>LAND PREPARATION</b>						
Stubble disc	19.00					19.00
Subsoil	31.00					31.00
Disc 2x	10.00					20.00
Landplane 2x	10.75					21.50
Border, cross check & break borders	15.00					15.00
Flood		Water 1 ac/ft	11.50	1	5.75	17.25
Fertilize (double spread)	7.00	500# 11-52-0	67.75			74.75
Wil-Rich chisel plow	12.75					12.75
Disc 1x	10.00					10.00
Triplane 1x	9.25					9.25
List	12.25					12.25
<b>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION</b>						<b>242.75</b>
<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>						
Precision plant	15.25	Seed @ 3" spacing	150.00			165.25
Spray herbicide	7.00	Dacthal	30.80			37.80
Sprinkler irrigate	140.00					140.00
Thin				10	57.50	57.50
Cultivate 3x	11.25					33.75
Spike 2x	8.00					16.00
Fertilize & furrow out 2x	10.50	120# N @ .31	37.20			58.20
Water-run fertilizer		60 # N @ .31	18.60			18.60
Hand weed 1x				12	69.00	69.00
Irrigate 6x		Water 3 ac./ft	34.50	7	40.25	74.75
Gated pipe	47.50					47.50
Insect control 7x	6.00	Insecticides	95.00			137.00
Disease control 2x	5.00	Fungicides	45.00			55.00
Stubble disc 1x	19.00					19.00
<b>TOTAL GROWING PERIOD</b>						<b>764.10</b>
<b>GROWING PERIOD &amp; LAND PREPARATION COSTS</b>						<b>1006.85</b>
Land Rent (net acres)						225.00
Cash Overhead-----		12 % of preharvest costs & land rent				147.82
<b>TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS</b>						<b>1379.67</b>
<b>HARVEST COSTS</b>						
Custom harvest: cut, pack, haul and sell (extra services not included)		500 cartons @	3.40 /ctn.			1700.00
<b>TOTAL ALL COSTS</b>						<b>3079.67</b>

**PROJECTED PROFIT OR LOSS PER ACRE**  
price/ 50 lb. carton

Cartons per acre	PROJECTED PROFIT OR LOSS PER ACRE					Break-even \$/carton
	4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	
400	-1140	-740	-340	60	460	6.85
500	-1080	-580	-80	420	920	6.16
600	-1020	-420	180	780	1380	5.70
700	-960	-260	440	1140	1840	5.37
800	-900	-100	700	1500	2300	5.12



# CABBAGE CULTURE 1992-1993

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>YIELD/ACRE*</u>	<u>VALUE/ACRE</u>
1991	1141	423	\$1500
1990	862	712	5726
1989	895	619	2286
1988	840	546	2527
1987	708	394	1249

\* 50# cartons (Source: I.C. Agricultural Commissioner's Reports)

**PLANTING DATES:** Cabbage is planted from mid-September through October. Harvesting begins in December and continues through February. The demand for local cabbage depends upon the amount and availability of the cabbage harvest in coastal California and Texas.

The average yield varies according to price, but it may reach 1000 cartons per acre. Normally yields are low due to lack of sales.

Oversupply from competing markets depresses price rapidly to the point where harvesting is impractical. A shortage in the cabbage supply, however, can create windfall profits. Cabbage is a very high risk crop!

Some cabbage is grown for contracts for fast food outlets and cole slaw manufacturers.

**VARIETIES:** The standard green variety is "Headstart". "Grenadier", "Charmant", and "Grandslam" are also grown. "Rubyball" and "Red Rookie" are frequently used red hybrids varieties. Open pollinated "Red Meteor" is an alternate choice.

**PLANTING & SPACING:** Double-row 42" beds are used for cabbage production. The seed is normally planted with a precision planter at 2" spacing in-row and at a seeding depth of 1/4" or less. The rows are usually 13" apart.

At a 2" spacing, roughly 156 M (thousand) seeds are required per acre. When the plants develop 2-3 true leaves, the seedlings are thinned to 12-14" apart.

**IRRIGATION:** Sprinkler irrigation is used to germinate the crop. Once the seedlings have emerged, the field is furrow irrigated. Cabbage grows well on medium and moderately heavy soil. The salt tolerance of cabbage is intermediate.

**FERTILIZERS:** Five hundred pounds of 11-52-0 broadcast prior to listing is standard practice. Sidedress applications of nitrogen at 60-80# N/acre are common. Ammonium nitrate or UAN32 solutions are often used.

**PESTS AND DISEASES:** Watch for crickets, cutworms, flea beetles, saltmarsh caterpillars, aphids, thrips, and cabbage looper. Once the insect burrows into the heads, chemical control will be close to impossible.



## CABBAGE (continued)

Cabbage should be planted following sugar beets due to possible cyst nematode infection (Heterodera schactii). Downy mildew (Peronospora parasitica) may require control under favorable conditions for the disease.

Odema is a physiological disorder of cabbage which is manifested by pits and craters on the epidermis of the leaves. The cause is unknown.

**HARVESTING:** Fields are hand harvested and cabbage is packed 24 heads per bulge-packed carton weighing 45# minimum. Head counts can vary from 18-24 heads and be acceptable to the buyer who is buying on the basis of net weight. Cabbage is normally sold by the pound in the market.

Cone-shaped cabbage heads are not acceptable in West Coast and Pacific Northwestern markets. Some cabbage is precontracted for fast food outlets for cole slaw and salad mixes.

Cabbage may be either hydrovac or vacuum cooled. It should be stored under refrigeration after cooling. Cooling and palletizing are paid by the receiver.

**POSTHARVEST** Cabbage should be stored at 32F and a 98% relative humidity. Storing at low humidity causes wilting and senescence. Cabbage should not be stored near ripening fruits or ethylene sources or loss of green color and abscission of the leaves will result.

**NUTRITION** Cabbage is an excellent source of vitamin C, potassium and fiber. A six ounce serving contains 30 calories.



UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

