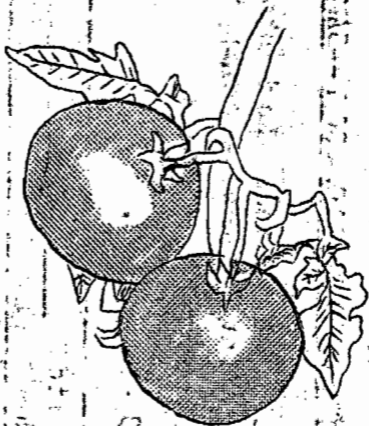


tomatoes  
mature green  
sample costs  
and  
production



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

MATURE GREEN TOMATOES, OPEN GROWN--SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Hand labor at \$3.00 per hour (\$2.53 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, transportation, supervision and fringe benefits):

Yield - 8.0 tons or 533 - 30# boxes.

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
<b>LAND PREPARATION</b>						
Plow or subsoil	\$12.00					\$ 12.00
Disc 2x	3.50					7.00
Border & break border	4.00					4.00
Flood		Water	2.00		2.00	4.00
Fertilize	2.50	400# 11-48-0	46.00			48.50
Disc 2x	3.50					7.00
Landplane 2x	4.00					8.00
Make beds	8.00					8.00
<b>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION</b>						<b>\$ 98.50</b>
<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>						
Plant & shape beds	7.00	Seed 1#	16.00			23.00
Block & thin 2x				22	66.00	66.00
Cultivate 3x	7.00					21.00
Fertilize - side-dress 3x	5.50	450# N-P-K	77.50			94.00
Hoe 2x				10	30.00	30.00
Layby	2.50	Herbicide	15.00			17.50
Irrigate 9x		Water 6 ac ft	16.20	12	36.00	52.50
Insect Control 12x	3.00	Insecticides	70.00			106.00
<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>						<b>\$410.00</b>
<b>GROWING PERIOD &amp; LAND PREP COSTS</b>						<b>\$508.50</b>
Land Rent						\$125.00
Cash overhead - 10% of preharvest costs and land rent						63.35
<b>TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS</b>						<b>\$696.85</b>
<b>HARVEST</b>						
Contract @ \$2.90 per 30# box, including picking, hauling, packing and selling						\$1545.70
<b>TOTAL ALL COSTS AND SELLING</b>						<b>\$2242.55</b>

Cost per box = \$4.21

**YIELDS**

Yields depend on the number of picks that market conditions warrant. County averages have been from 5 to over 11 tons, although yields of over 15 tons per acre are possible. The Agricultural Commissioner's reports show seasonal average price per ton during the past five years varied from a low of \$175.89 in 1972 to a high of \$259.81 in 1971.

**PLANTING DATES**

Open tomatoes are planted from early January through February 15 for an early June harvest. A small acreage may also be seeded in July or August for harvest in winter.

**VARIETIES**

Earlypak 7 and Ace are the principal varieties grown. However, other varieties resistant to Fusarium, Verticillium, and nematodes are planted on small acreages.

## SOILS

Medium to heavy soils that are well drained are generally best. Such soils maintain their moisture content longer and more uniformly than sandy soils.

## IRRIGATION

Moisture should be maintained as uniformly as possible. Large fluctuations in soil moisture or water stress conditions can be detrimental to plant and fruit development.

## FERTILIZERS

Before listing, 20-40 pounds nitrogen and 100-200 pounds phosphate are broadcast, although banding of reduced fertilizer rates under the seed is also practiced. After thinning, 150-200 pounds of N are sidedressed, depending on the previous crop. Excess nitrogen results in delayed and uneven maturity.

## PESTS AND DISEASES

The primary insect problems are tomato fruit worms, armyworms, thrips, aphids, and pinworms. Curly top virus and fusarium wilt are the chief diseases.

## HARVESTING

Most of the fruit is picked in the mature green stage, placed in field trailers or bins, and hauled to shed for washing, cooling and packing. UC Cooperative Extension

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California Agricultural Extension.