

CABBAGE CULTURE

1977-78

| <u>YEAR</u> | <u>ACRES</u> | <u>YIELD/ACRE</u> | <u>VALUE/TON</u> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1972 | 620 | 12.26 | \$ 86.97 |
| 1973 | 470 | 14.04 | 93.79 |
| 1974 | 1200 | 10.25 | 65.04 |
| 1975 | 330 | 16.06 | 102.45 |
| 1976 | 317 | 7.50 | 90.06 |

YIELDS: Yields of 800 cartons per acre are occasionally produced. Total yields are influenced by market conditions at harvest time. Several cuttings are common.

PLANTING: Most acreage is planted from September 10-25 on 42" beds with two rows per bed. Seed is planted 1/8 to 1/4 inch deep at a seeding rate of 2 pounds per acre. Plants are thinned 12 to 14 inches apart. Cabbage seed will germinate between 40-95 F. (Optimum 85 F) Stubble discing (\$11.75/A) may be necessary to decompose the previous crop.

VARIETIES: Only early maturing varieties for the fresh market are planted. Varietal strains of Headstart, Banner and Golden Acre predominate. Hybrid seed sell for \$45.00 per pound whereas open pollinated lines run about \$6-7.00 per pound. In warm weather, cabbage tends to bolt producing soft elongated heads.

SOIL: A medium textured soil with good drainage and good 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 also include shovel work, pipe setting and grader expense.

FERTILIZERS: All the phosphate fertilizer should be broadcast before listing. Apply the additional nitrogen in two sidedressing.

WEED CONTROL: Several herbicides are registered for use on cabbage. These are applied preemergence. Consult the weed control Farm Advisor for further information.

PEST 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, cutworms, 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 near the fields.