

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE CAULIFLOWER FOR FRESH MARKET IN MONTEREY COUNTY - 1979  
By J.W. Huffman and E.A. Yeary

Yield: 425 cartons per acre (wt. 25 pounds)  
 Invest: Mid March through December  
 Plant: January through December

Operation	Annual Labor Costs/Hour 1/		Hourly Tractor Costs			Interest
	Tractor Used	Hours Acre	Cash Costs	Depreciation	Total Acre	
Cl. I Equipment Operator	80 h.p. Crawler Diesel	7.86	12.19	5.42	2.78	
Cl. II Equipment Operator		7.74				
Irrigator		6.67				
Other Labor	50 h.p. Wheel Diesel	6.55	4.61	1.11	.67	

**CULTURAL**

Cover Crop - Manure					Proportion of cost to cauliflower	50.00
Disc and Roll 3x	C-80	0.69	5.34	10.24		15.58
Chisel 2x	C-80	1.0	7.74	13.29		21.03
Landplane 2x	C-80	0.52	4.02	7.72		11.74
List & Preplant Fertilizer					Contract @ \$6.50/Ac #500 12-12-12 \$53.75	60.25
Shape Beds	WD-50	0.25	1.94	1.28		3.22
Plant-4 Bed Planter	WD-50	0.5	3.93	3.08	Seed 1/2 lb. \$16.00	23.01
Herbicide 2/					Contract @ \$8.00/Ac Materials @ \$16.00/Ac	18.00
Irrigation 7x (3 Sprinkler, furrow)		15.0	100.05	11.00	2.0 Ac Ft @ \$12.50 per Ac Ft, \$3.00 Booster Pump	139.05
Preplant Dress Fertilizer 2x		9.5	62.23			62.23
					Contract \$5.75/Ac 175# N @ \$.40 per lb.	81.50
Pest Control 2x					Contract @ \$6.50/Ac Materials \$30.00/Ac	43.10
Cultivate 5x	WD-50	2.0	15.72	11.02		26.74
Tie Tops 3/		10.5	68.78		Rubber Bands @ 25.00	93.78
Hoe and Weed		8.0	52.40			52.40
Miscellaneous (includes setup and moving)		4.0	28.20	8.27		36.47
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS</b>						<b>738.10</b>

**OVERHEAD**

Business Costs: Office and Business Expense, etc. @ 12% of Cultural Costs						88.57
Taxes: Equipment						4.00
Rent: \$500.00 per acre, 6 mos. to cauliflower						250.00
<b>TOTAL OVERHEAD COSTS</b>						<b>342.57</b>

Harvest: Contract @ \$3.75 per carton (cost includes harvesting, hauling, packing, carton and sales charge)						1,593.75
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL, OVERHEAD AND HARVESTING COSTS</b>						<b>2,674.42</b>

ANNUAL COSTS	Investment	Per Acre	Depreciation	Interest - 12%
Charged to cauliflower	Buildings	50.00	2.50	3.00
	Irrigation System	110.00	11.00	5.40
Tractors are on an hourly basis	Portable Irrig. System	35.00	3.50	1.50
	Tractors	150.00	15.02	7.98
	Equipment	120.00	12.00	6.00
		<u>485.00</u>	<u>44.02</u>	<u>23.88</u>
	6 Months (Except Tractors and Equipment) to Cauliflower			67.90

<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</b>	<b>2,742.32</b>
<b>TOTAL COST PER CARTON (BASED ON 425 CARTONS/ACRE YIELD)</b>	<b>6.45</b>

SAMPLE COSTS OF PRODUCTION AT VARYING YIELDS

YIELD CARTONS PER ACRE	375	400	425	450	475
Cost to Grow per Acre	1080.67	1080.67	1080.67	1080.67	1080.67
Cost to Harvest	1406.25	1500.00	1593.75	1687.50	1781.25
Annual Costs	67.90	67.90	67.90	67.90	67.90
Total Cost per Acre	2554.82	2648.17	2742.32	2836.07	2929.82
Cost per Carton	6.81	6.62	6.45	6.30	6.16

Management has not been included as a cost of production in this study.

- 1/ Labor costs per hour include fringe benefits paid by the farmer.. FDI, social security, workman's compensation, unemployment, health plan, vacation, holidays, and pension plan.
- 2/ Dacthal® or Tok® pre-emergence herbicide. Selection usually based on weed types and soil texture. Post emergence Tok® 50WP when cauliflower is in the 2 to 3 true leaf stage. If a farmer desires to incorporate the herbicide prior to planting, Treflan® may be used.

For rates and application techniques, follow label instructions or contact your local Agricultural Extension Office.

- 3/ Cauliflower tops are tied to produce maximum quality. It costs about \$137.55 for labor and \$25.00 for rubber bands per acre. Assuming about one half of the acreage is tied during the year, one half of the labor, 10.5 hours or \$68.78, and the \$25.00 cost of rubber bands was assigned to production costs.