

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Hand labor at \$5.50 per hour (\$4.30 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, transportation, supervision and fringe benefits).

Yield--500 cartons per acre (13.75 tons). 90-110 days to maturity.

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR*		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre	YOUR COSTS
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars		
<b>LAND PREPARATION</b>							
Subsoil	18.00					\$ 18.00	
Disc 2x	6.50					13.00	
Border, cross check & break borders	11.50					11.50	
Flood		Water 3/4 ac/ft	3.94	1	5.50	9.44	
Fertilize	4.00	400# 11-48-0	58.00			62.00	
Disc 2x	6.50					13.00	
Triplane 2x	6.50					13.00	
List	7.25					7.25	
<b>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION</b>						<b>\$ 147.19</b>	
<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>							
Incorporate beds	15.50	Herbicide	7.00			\$ 22.50	
Sprinkler Irrigate						110.00	
Plant (Precision)	10.00	Seed 1/4# & coating	30.00			40.00	
Thin				13	71.50	71.50	
Cultivate 3x	7.50					22.50	
Fertilize & furrow out 2x	7.50	180# N @32¢	57.60			72.60	
Weed				7	38.50	38.50	
Irrigate 6x		Water 3 1/2 ac/ft	18.38	7	38.50	56.88	
Insect Control 7x	3.65	Insecticides	100.00			125.55	
<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>						<b>\$ 560.03</b>	
<b>GROWING PERIOD &amp; LAND PREPARATION COSTS</b>						<b>\$ 707.22</b>	
Land Rent (new lease)						175.00	
Cash Overhead--10% of preharvest costs & land rent						88.22	
<b>TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS</b>						<b>\$ 970.44</b>	
<b>HARVEST COSTS</b>							
Custom harvest: cut, pack, haul 500 cartons @2.25/ctn						\$1125.00	
<b>TOTAL ALL COSTS</b>						<b>\$2095.44</b>	

Cost per carton = \$4.19 @ 500 ctn/Ac  
 Cost per carton = \$3.64 @ 700 ctn/Ac

\* Includes shovel work, pipe setting and miscellaneous tractor work.

INCOME ABOVE ALL COSTS PER ACRE

Price Per Carton

Cartons Per Acre	Price Per Carton				
	\$ 3.50	4.00	4.50	5.00	5.50
500	- 345	- 95	+ 155	+ 405	+ 655
600	- 220	+ 80	+ 380	+ 680	+ 980
700	- 95	+ 255	+ 605	+ 955	+ 1305
800	+ 30	+ 430	+ 830	+ 1230	+ 1630
900	+ 155	+ 605	+ 1055	+ 1505	+ 1955

*Sample # 226*

1980

LETTUCE CULTURE

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>YIELD/ACRE (TONS)</u>	<u>VALUE/TONS</u>
1975	45000	13.42	\$ 124
1976	43900	13.35	118
1977	41170	13.96	133
1978	40860	12.15	153
1979	44743	11.16	347

PLANTING DATES: Plantings extend continually from early September to mid-November. Early plantings are harvested in late November to early December, while October plantings are harvested in January and February. Most of the lettuce is planted with pelleted seed and planted with a Stanhay planter. Seeds are planted 2-3 inches apart in row.

VARIETIES: The date of planting affects the variety grown since the season progresses from extreme heat to cool days and freezing nights, then back to moderately high temperatures in early Spring. Varieties commonly planted are: Excell, Empire, Merit (3186), Climax, K60, Winterhaven, Domingos 43, Moranguard, RC 74, Morangold, Vanguard 75 and Vanguard. Early plantings mature in about 90 days while later ones require 120 or more days.

SOILS: Silt loams and sandy soils are preferred. The lighter soils provide better drainage during cold weather and warm up more readily. Lettuce has a moderately low degree of salt tolerance. Excess salinity results in poor seed germination and small heads. Stubble discing at \$14/acre may be necessary to decompose residues.

IRRIGATION: Most growers use sprinklers until the seedlings emerge to provide better stands with reduced seeding rates. Gated pipe is also used especially near harvest. The irrigation labor costs used also include shovel work, grader work and pipe setting.

FERTILIZERS: 200 lbs. of P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> are broadcast prior to listing. Nitrogen is side-dressed just after thinning and during later growth. Early, warm-season lettuce requires less N than that grown in January and February. About 150 lbs. N is used early, while 200 - 250 lbs. are applied to the cold weather crop.

WEED CONTROL: Herbicides are applied preplant. Some types are sprayed over the beds postplant while others are incorporated.

PEST AND DISEASES: Watch for crickets, cutworms, salt marsh caterpillars, beet armyworms, and cabbage loopers. Cabbage loopers can be especially serious after thinning. The most serious diseases are big vein, damping-off diseases, and sclerotinia. Use mosaic-free seed 0:30000. Outbreaks of disease such as downy mildew could require an additional \$40 for control.

FUMIGATION: Fumigation is needed on early fields where root knot and Longidorus nematodes are found. Normal fumigation costs are \$41.

HARVESTING: Most lettuce is field packed in cartons, trucked to vacuum coolers and shipped to market in refrigerated trucks and railway cars. Field packing of film-wrapped heads is also common.