

Ventura 1975

PIMIENTO PEPPERS

Yield: 8, 7, and 9 Tons/A

Land Use: 9 months

Plant: Late March, April, May

Harvest: September, October, November

	Tractor	Labor Per Acre		Machinery	Contract & Materials	Total Per A.
		Hrs	Cost			

CULTURAL CASH COSTS

Subsoil 1/2 x	W 80	.21	\$.98	\$.99		\$ 1.97
Disc & Roll 1x	W 80	.18	.84	1.33		2.17
Plow 4 - 16"	W 80	.45	2.09	2.30		4.39
Disc & Roll 2 x	C 40	.50	2.32	2.96		5.28
Landplane	W 80	.52	2.42	2.70		5.12
Furrow	W 30	.20	.93	.38		1.31
Pre-irrigate		1.50	6.08	.25	1/2 A-Ft Wtr@\$10	\$ 5.00 11.33
Drag Harrow 2 x	C 40	.34	1.58	1.26		2.48
Springtooth Harrow 2x	W 80	.34	1.58	1.46		3.04
Fertilize, injected			Contract		100 lb/A N	26.70 26.70
Drag Harrow 2 x	C 40	.34	1.58	1.26		2.84
Plant 4 rows flat	W 30	.35*	1.63*	.85	Seed 3 lb.	22.50 24.98
Push Hoe 4 rows	W 30	.33	1.53	.60		2.13
Thin		9.00	33.30			33.30
Cultivate 4 x r rows	W 50	1.00	4.65	3.84		8.49
Fertilize 1 x	W 30	.40	3.60	.96	Fertilizer	30.00 34.56
Hoe 1 x		8.00	29.60			29.60
Irrigate 3 x		4.50	18.24	.75	1 A-Ft Wtr @ \$10	10.00 28.99
Pest Control 1 x			Contract			20.00 20.00
Disc & Roll Ruffuse	W 80	.36	1.67	2.66		4.33
Total Cultural Cash Costs		28.52	\$114.62	\$24.55		\$114.20 \$253.37

CASH OVERHEAD

Land Rent		\$25.00 per acre-month x 9 months	\$225.00
Taxes on Machinery	@	.29 per acre-month x 9 months	2.61
Supervision	@	5.30 per acre-month x 9 months	47.70
General Expense	@	6% of cultural cash and harvest costs	15.20
Total Cash Overhead			\$290.51
Total Cash Costs Except Harvesting			\$543.88

HARVESTING, PACKAGING, AND SELLING CASH COSTS

Picking, labor and machinery	8 Tons @ \$36.00	\$288.00
Total Harvesting Cash Costs		\$288.00
Total Cultural, Overhead, and Harvesting Cash Costs		\$831.88

INVESTMENT OVERHEAD

Depreciation: Tractor & Machinery	\$14.16	Transportation & Shop	\$6.84	\$ 21.00
Interest: " "	6.64	" "	1.80	8.44
Total Investment Overhead				\$ 29.44
Total Cost Per Acre	@	8 Tons/A		\$861.32
Total Cost Per Acre	@	7 Tons/A		\$825.32
Total Cost Per Acre	@	9 Tons/A		\$897.32
Total Cost Per Ton	@	8 Tons/A	\$107.66	
Total Cost Per Ton	@	7 Tons/A	117.90	
Total Cost Per Ton	@	9 Tons/A	99.70	

* 1 man @ \$3.55/Hr, 1 man @ \$4.45/Hr

Irrigation

In medium-textured soils a pepper crop can be allowed to grow to a foot or more in height before the first irrigation. Two more irrigations with the final irrigation scheduled for about 10 days before harvest begins may be sufficient but in some fields it may be advisable to irrigate immediately after the first harvest.

Pest and Disease Control

Occasionally, fields need to be treated for control of aphids, corn earworms, or cutworms. There are usually some losses from Verticillium wilt and from one or more virus diseases. Reduction of virus diseases by eliminating wild, host plants is advisable.

University of California recommendations for pest and disease control are available at the farm advisors office.

Ethephon

Ethephon can be used to hasten ripening of fruit for a single pick or for the final pick. The most obvious result of ethephon is a smaller number of green or chocolate fruit left in the field. Manufacturer's recommendations must be closely followed. We need more experience with commercial applications of ethephon on all kinds of peppers. Ethephon may cause some defoliation and in excessive amounts may cause fruit to drop.

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PIMIENTO PEPPERS CASH FLOW EXCLUDING LAND RENT AND TAXES

Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
<u>Start</u>								
\$140								
			<u>Grow</u>					
			\$150					
						<u>Harvest</u>		
						\$300		

Acres, Yields, and Prices as reported by Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner

<u>Year</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>T/A</u>	<u>\$/Ton</u>	<u>\$/A</u>
1962	707	8.2	67.50	554
1963	705	5.4	67.24	363
1964	918	6.4	67.50	430
1965	1000	4.9	70.26	344
1966	850	6.5	90.00	585
1967	416	7.8	81.50	636
1968	591	8.1	93.50	760
1969	458	8.6	90.00	753
1970	Not reported separately			
1971	491	5.0	90.00	450
1972	Not reported separately			
1973	"	"	"	"
1974	"	"	"	"

PIMIENTO PEPPERS

Yield

For an 8-year period ending in 1968, the average yield for pimiento peppers was between 5 and 8 tons per acre. In 1968 and 1969, the average exceeded 8 tons per acre. Yields of 8, 7, and 9 tons per acre are used in this sample cost.

Soils and Climate

Pimiento peppers became established in Ventura County many years ago when it was found the soils and climate of the Oxnard plain were especially good for them. They are usually confined to the best soils of the Oxnard plain. Because it occupies the land for about nine months, a relatively high land rent must be charged to this crop.

When to Plant and Harvest

Most pimiento peppers are planted in late March through May and harvesting is done in September and October. Most fields are picked twice.

Planting, Cultivation, and Weed Control

A few years ago all pimiento peppers were planted on the flat in rows 40-inches apart. The seedbed had enough moisture for germination, and in-the-row weed control was accomplished by "push hoeing" in which a cultivator shovel was used to scrape off weeds that had germinated ahead of the crop. In recent years some growers have been experimenting with 30-inch rows and with planting 2 rows to a bed with the spacings 14 inches on the bed and 26 inches across the furrow. Planting 3 rows in 80 inches (25 inches between rows and 30 inches for the wheel spaces) is worthy of trial. The usual practice is to thin plants to a spacing of 10 inches in the row. The crop is well suited to mechanical thinning because it is not essential that the plants be evenly spaced and a few doubles are not objectionable.

Where the crop is planted on the flat several cultivations, up to the time when the plants are too large to cultivate, are used for weed control, and, along with cultivation, a small furrow is made in each row space for irrigation.

Peppers are more sensitive to selective herbicides than tomatoes, so chemical weed control is not a general practice in this crop.

Fertilizing

Although it is a general practice to apply mixed fertilizers to peppers soon after thinning, this crop grown on vegetable land that has been repeatedly fertilized will probably do well with a total of 100 to 150 pounds of nitrogen per acre only. One hundred pounds of this could be injected as aqua ammonia before planting, and 50 pounds or more could be applied as a side-dressing after the crop was well established.

HEAD LETTUCE

Yield: 600, 500, and 700 Cartons/A

Land Use: 4 months

Plant: Fall Crop - August 10 to September 5
 Spring Crop - December, January, February

Harvest: Fall - October, November
 Spring - March, April, May, June

	Tractor	Labor Per Acre		Machinery	Contract & Materials	Total Per A.
		Hrs.	Cost			
CULTURAL CASH COSTS						
Land Preparation and Stand Establishment		6.82	\$29.58	\$15.50	\$ 14.83	\$ 59.91
Preplant Fertilizer				300 lb. 16-20-0	32.00	32.00
Seed				1/2 lb. seed, coated	17.00	17.00
Thinning				Contract	45.00	45.00
Fertilizer after thinning				100 lb. N	31.00	31.00
Late Fertilizer, Sidedress	W 30	.40	1.86	.96 69 lb. N	18.60	21.42
Cultivate 1 x 4 beds	W 40	.25	1.16	.96		2.12
Irrigate 2 x		3.00	12.16	.50 2/3 A-Ft Wtr @ \$10	6.67	19.33
Pest Control 3 x				Contract	60.00	60.00
Hoe 1 x		8.00	29.60			29.60
Disc & Roll Refuse	W 80	.36	1.67	2.66		4.33
Total Cultural Cash Costs		18.83	\$76.03	\$20.58	\$225.10	\$321.00

CASH OVERHEAD

Land Rent			\$25.00 per acre-month x 4 months		\$100.00
Taxes on Machinery	@		.29 per acre-month x 4 months		1.16
Supervision	@		5.30 per acre-month x 4 months		21.20
General Expense	@		6% of cultural cash costs		19.30
Total Cash Overhead					\$141.66
Total Cash Costs Except Harvesting					\$463.37

HARVESTING, PACKAGING, AND SELLING COSTS

Harvesting	\$1.85 x 600 =				\$1,110.00
Selling	8% x 600 x \$3.25				156.00
Total Harvesting, Packaging, and Selling Cash Costs					\$1,266.00
Total Cultural, Overhead, Harvesting, Packaging, and Selling Cash Costs					\$1,729.37

INVESTMENT OVERHEAD

Depreciation: Tractor & Machinery		\$12.95	Transportation & Shop	\$3.04	\$ 15.99
Interest: " "		6.40	" "	.80	7.20
Total Investment Overhead					\$ 23.19

Total Cost Per Acre	@	600 Cartons/A			\$1,752.56
Total Cost Per Acre	@	500 Cartons/A			\$1,541.56
Total Cost Per Acre	@	700 Cartons/A			\$1,963.56
Total Cost Per Carton	@	600 Cartons/A	\$ 2.92		
Total Cost Per Carton	@	500 Cartons/A	3.08		
Total Cost Per Carton	@	700 Cartons/A	2.81		