

cabbage
sample costs
and
production



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

Cost Data Sheet No. 11

CABBAGE--SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Hand labor at \$2.00 per hour (\$1.50 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, transportation, supervision and fringe benefits).

Yield - 500 50# cartons per acre.

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
LAND PREPARATION						
Plow or subsoil	\$8.00					\$ 8.00
Disc 2x	2.00					4.00
Border & break border	1.00					1.00
Flood		water .75 ac ft	1.73		2.00	3.73
Fertilize	1.00	400# 11-48-0	19.00			20.00
Disc 2x	2.00					4.00
Landplane 2x	2.75					5.50
List	3.00					3.00
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						49.23
GROWING PERIOD						
Incorporate beds	5.00	herbicide	10.00			15.00
Plant	3.00	seed 2# @ 2.25	4.50			7.50
Thin				25	50.00	50.00
Cultivate 3x	3.00					9.00
Fertilize - side-dress 2x	3.00	200# N @ 10¢	20.00			26.00
Hoe				7.5	15.00	15.00
Irrigate 10x		5 ac ft @ 2.30	11.50	5	10.00	21.50
Pest control 6x	1.50- 2.00	insecticides	18.00			30.00
TOTAL GROWING PERIOD						174.00
TOTAL PRE-HARVEST COSTS						223.23
HARVEST						
Custom harvest, pack, haul to cooler		500 50# ctn. @ 1.10				550.00
TOTAL HARVEST COST						550.00
Land rent						65.00
Cash overhead 15% of preharvest and land rent costs, plus 2% of harvest costs						54.23
TOTAL ALL COSTS						\$ 892.46

Cost per carton = \$1.78

The Agricultural Commissioner's reports show seasonal average price per ton during the past five years varied from a low of \$41.08 in 1965 to a high of \$86.10 in 1966.

YIELDS

Range from 350 to 400 50-pound cartons per acre. Yields of 700 cartons per acre are occasionally produced. Total yields are influenced by market conditions at harvest time. Seven cuttings are not unusual because of the uneven maturity of cabbage under local conditions.

PLANTING

Most acreage is planted from September 10-25 on beds with 42 inch centers, two rows per bed. Seed is planted 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep at 2 pounds per acre. Plants thinned 12 to 14 inches apart. Run rows in a north-south direction.

VARIETIES

Only early maturing varieties for the fresh market are planted. Varietal strains of Copenhagen Market and Golden Acre predominate. Red Acre and Round Red Dutch are sometimes grown on a very limited acreage.

SOIL

A medium textured soil with good drainage and water holding capacity is desirable. Lighter soils are easier to manage during the colder months than heavy ones. Cabbage is moderately salt tolerant.

IRRIGATION

The "germination irrigation" -- the irrigation following planting -- should thoroughly soak the beds. At no time after thinning should plants be stressed for water. Normally, 6 to 8 irrigations are adequate.

FERTILIZERS

All the phosphate should be broadcast before listing. Apply the additional nitrogen in two sidedressings.

WEED CONTROL

Several herbicides are registered for use on cabbage. These are applied pre-emergence to the cabbage.

PESTS AND DISEASES

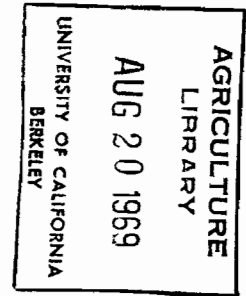
Cabbage diseases cause relatively little damage in Imperial County.

Cabbage loopers, armyworms, salt marsh caterpillars, cutworms, sugar beet nematode, flea beetles and aphids can cause extensive damage unless controlled. Aluminum foil barricades or narrow trenches treated with insecticide usually control salt marsh caterpillars. However, for the latest information on insect control along with precautions in the use of insecticides, consult your farm advisor.

HARVESTING

Fields are harvested from one to several times December through March.

Heads are either cut, trimmed, and packed in the field, or cut, loaded into wagons, and hauled to local packing sheds. Both the 50-pound fiberboard carton and wirebound crate are used extensively.



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