

Based on a yield of 1500 bundles (4 bunches of 12 stalks) per acre and a 5 acre planting on a 10 acre operation. Cost for tractor driver is figured at \$2 per hour (incl. Social Security and Workman's Compensation), other labor at \$1.35, 20 h.p. wheel tractor at \$.80 per hour cash cost, 30 h.p. wheel tractor at \$1 per hour and 1½ ton truck at 7¢ per mile.

OPERATIONS	HOURS PER ACRE	LABOR COST	TRACTOR AND EQUIPMENT COST	MATERIALS KIND	TOTAL COST	TOTAL COST/ACRE
Land preparation & planting						
Disc 1x--30 hp wheel, 6' disc	.8	1.60	1.00			2.60
Subsoil ½x--30 hp wheel, subsoiler	1.25	2.50	1.50			4.00
Plow 1x--30 hp wheel, 2-16"	1.5	3.00	1.85			4.85
Harrow 1x--30 hp wheel, 8' spike	.5	1.00	.50			1.50
Level 2x--30 hp wheel, 6' scraper	1.0	2.00	1.10			3.10
Disc & harrow 1x--30 hp wheel	.8	1.60	1.00			2.60
Float 1x--30 hp wheel, float	.5	1.00	.50			1.50
Furrow out 1x--20 hp wheel, 3 row	1.0	2.00	1.05			3.05
Planting Planet Jr. (30" single row)	2.5	3.40		2 3/4 lbs. seed @ \$40/lb	110.00	113.40
Cultural						
Irrigate 8x	8.0	10.80		15" water @ \$18/acre foot	22.50	33.30
Fertilize--manure (preplant)				700 cu.ft. chick. @8¢ spread	56.00	56.00
commercial 2x	5.0	6.75		1.5 tons chemical	105.00	111.75
Dust 8x--20 hp wheel, 6 row	8.0	16.00	1.10	400 lbs. dust \$25/100	100.00	117.10
Weed 3x--hand	90.0	121.50				121.50
Cultivate 8x--20 hp wheel, cultivator	5.0	10.00	4.75			14.75
Furrow 7x--20 hp wheel, 3 row	4.0	8.00	4.20			12.20
Miscellaneous						10.00
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS						613.20
Harvest						
Picking 1500 bundles 7 bundles/hr.	215.0	290.25		Twine 50¢/lb. 5#/acre	2.50	292.75
Hauling Truck-490 miles/A 7 trips 3 hr. per trip	21.0	42.00	32.00			74.00
TOTAL HARVESTING COSTS						366.75
	Investment per acre	Depreciation per acre	Interest per acre	General Expense		90.00
				Taxes & Insurance		32.00
				Rent		160.00
Tractors	690	69.00	20.70	Total Cash Overhead Costs		282.00
Trucks	560	70.00	16.80	Total Cash Costs		1261.95
Implements	400	40.00	12.00	Depreciation		179.00
Total	1650	179.00	49.50	Interest on Investment 6% of ½ orig.		49.50
				Total Non-Cash Overhead		228.50
				Total All Costs		1490.45
				Cost per bundle		.93

## GROWING NOTES

Column stocks are grown as an outdoor, fall to spring planted crop in Orange County. Major plantings are made from October through March. Exposure to a low temperature period is necessary before column stocks will initiate flowers and is the reason for the fall to early spring planting. Some September planting is done with expected December harvest but warm weather can delay flower initiation and usually timing is more difficult with this crop.

Plantings by individual growers are usually on a limited scale involving, at most, a total of ten acres. Stocks fill out the years schedules for those who are field growers of cut flowers. Harvesting will occur from December thru June with better quality flowers produced in the March to April period.

Plantings made during the late fall to early spring period will receive sufficient hours of temperature below 50° to 60° Fahrenheit to satisfy the necessary cool temperature requirement for flower initiation. A prolonged, cool, wet period can be particularly damaging to stock fields due to infestation of several diseases such as bacterial blight, cottony rot and Botrytis blight. The major insect pest is aphids. The aphids are the agent for spreading stock mosaic which causes a leaf mottling and flower color breaking which is most noticeable in the pink, lavender and the more vivid colors. Thrips can also discolor and mark the more vivid colored flowers. Certain insect larva may also be troublesome by eating the growing tip. A saline soil can be a problem in seed germination. A soil test can indicate whether leaching before planting is necessary.