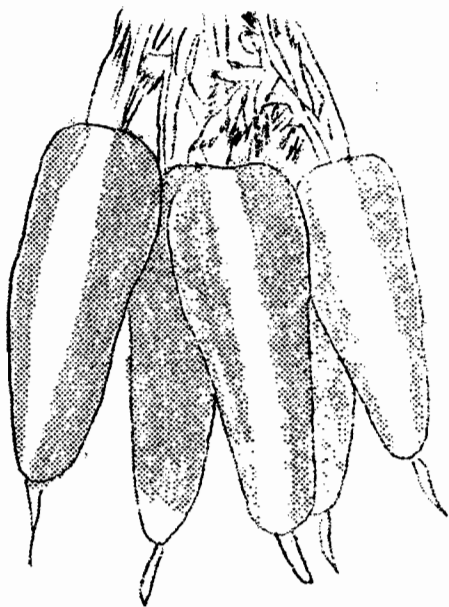


carrots

sample costs

and

production



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

Cost Data Sheet No. 14

CARROTS--PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Hand labor at \$3.75 per hour (\$3.00 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, and transportation, supervision and fringe benefits).

Yield - 500 54# sacks per acre. (13.5 tons) 75-80 days to maturity.

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR*		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
LAND PREPARATION						
Subsoil	\$ 12.50					\$ 12.50
Disc 2x	4.50					9.00
Border & break border	4.50					4.50
Flood		Water .75 ac ft	2.63	1	3.75*	6.38
Fertilize	3.00	400# 11-48-0	40.00			43.00
Disc 2x	4.50					9.00
Landplane 2x	5.00					10.00
Fumigation	4.50	Fumigant	28.00			32.50
List	5.00					5.00
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						\$ 131.88

GROWING PERIOD

Plant	5.50	Seed 2# @ 7.00	14.00			19.50
Weed Control 2x	3.00	Herbicides Lorox@ and carrot oil	35.50			41.50
Cultivate 2x	5.00					10.00
Spike 2x	3.50					7.00
Fertilize - side - dress 2x	4.50	150# N @ 25¢	37.50			42.50
Irrigate 7x		Water 5 3/4 ac ft	20.13	11	38.50*	58.63
Sprinkler Irrigate		Rent	35.00	9	33.75*	68.75
Pest Control 2x	3.00	Insecticides	10.00			16.00
GROWING PERIOD						\$ 263.88

GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREP COSTS

\$ 395.76

Land Rent (new lease)						150.00
Cash Overhead - 12% of preharvest costs and land rent						65.49
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS						\$ 611.25

HARVEST COSTS*

Harvest by machine, haul, pack, sell bulk at 12.00/ton						\$ 162.00
TOTAL ALL COSTS						\$ 773.25

Cost per ton = \$57.28

*Includes shovel labor, pipe setting and tractor work.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>YIELD/ACRE (TONS)</u>	<u>VALUE/TON</u>
1970	4300	9.30	\$ 86.50
1971	3800	13.55	141.00
1972	4400	11.00	81.50
1973	4500	14.64	107.62
1974	5900	18.86	93.77

PLANTING DATES: Early carrots are planted the last week in August and early September. Later maturing carrots are planted in October and early November.

VARIETIES: Long Imperator 58 is the main variety grown. Danvers 126 is planted for cannery use. Some hybrid varieties are also being used.

SOILS: Carrots can be grown on many of the soil types in the county. Best root development is obtained in the lighter soils. Carrots should not be grown on stratified soils.

IRRIGATION

First irrigation or "subbing" the beds for seed germination in August or early September is important. At this time of the year the air temperatures are usually high, so beds have to be wet until after seedling emergence to prevent crusting. Sprinkler irrigation may be used. The normal cost is \$50.00 - \$70.00 per acre. Irrigation costs used include shovel, and grader work.

FERTILIZERS

Previous crop history will help in determining fertilizer requirements. Phosphate is applied ahead of planting from 150 - 200 pounds per acre. Two hundred pounds of nitrogen is usually ample. Preplant fertilizer should be disced into the soil before listing to prevent forking.

WEED CONTROL

From 50 - 100 gallons of carrot oil may be applied after the crop has 2 true leaves and before roots are 1/4 inch in diameter. A residual herbicide can be applied when carrots are 3-4 inches high. Consult your weed control Farm Advisor for latest recommendations.

PESTS & DISEASES

Crickets, grasshoppers, and cutworms can be a problem when seedlings emerge. Later, aphids and spider mites may attack the leaves, while cutworms and aphids attack crowns.

Nematodes can be controlled by fumigation and damping-off by seed treatment. Root rot is usually absent under good cultural practices.

HARVESTING

Both hand and machining harvest are practiced. Harvesting takes place from December to June. Carrots are shipped with tops, in cello-paks or topped loose.

Prepared by
Imperial County
Agricultural Extension Staff

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California Agricultural Extension