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SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE CELERY IN MONTEREY COUNTY - 1981

By J. W. Huffman and E. A. Yeary

YIELD: 1,000 60 lb. crates per acre
 HARVEST: June through December
 PLANT-TRANSPLANT: February through Mid-August

TOTAL LABOR COSTS/HR. ¹

			HOURLY TRACTOR COSTS		
			Cash Costs	Depreciation	Interest
C1. I Equip. Operator	9.32	80 h.p. Crawler Diesel	14.51	6.33	4.75
C1. II Equip. Operator	9.11	60 h.p. Wheel Diesel	6.35	2.25	1.69
Irrigator	8.15				
Other Labor	8.02				

Operation	Tractor Used	Hour Acre	Labor	Fuel & Repairs	Contract and Materials	Total Acre
CULTURAL:						
Manure, 3.5 tons @ \$16.00/ton spread						56.00
Subsoil 2x (1/2 to celery)	C-80	1.24	11.30	21.63		16.47
Disc & roll 3x	C-80	0.69	6.29	12.24		18.53
Chisel 2x	C-80	0.66	6.01	10.67		16.68
Level 2x	C-80	0.52	4.74	9.61		14.35
List & preplant fert.					Contract @ \$8.00/ac., 600 lbs. 6-20-20 @ \$87.00	95.00
Shape beds & roll	WD-60	0.25	2.28	1.84		4.12
Plant - 4 bed ⁴	WD-60	0.42	3.83	3.74	Seed 1.0 lb. mini coated seed @ \$15.40/lb.	22.97
Herbicide ²					Contract, preplant \$9.50/ac/ appli. \$13.50 materials, post plant \$12.00/ac/appli. and \$42.00 materials	77.00
Irrigation 12x (5x sprinkler, 7x furrow)		38.75	315.81	12.00	3.0 ac. ft. @ \$36.00/ac.ft. \$4.00 booster pump	439.81
Thin ³		24.0	192.48			192.48
Fertilizer - side-dress 3x					Contract @ \$7.25/ac./appli. 200 lbs. N @ \$123.75	145.50
Fertilizer - Irrigation 2x					Application @ \$4.00/ac. 100 lbs. N @ \$50.85/lb.	58.85
Insecticide applications 5x					Contract @ \$8.25/ac./appli. Materials \$172.00 (includes fungicides)	213.25
Cultivations 7x	WD-60	1.75	15.94	13.49		29.43
Hoe & Weed		8.0	64.16			64.16
Miscellaneous (incl. setup & moving)		4.0	34.68	9.50		44.18

CULTURAL AND MATERIAL COSTS 1,508.78

Overhead:

Business Costs: Office and business expense @ 15% of cultural costs	226.32
Taxes: Equipment	5.00
Rent: \$700.00 per acre, 2/3 to celery	466.66

OVERHEAD COSTS 697.98

Harvest: Contract @ \$4.00 per crate - includes cutting, hauling, crate, packing, and selling charge 4,000.00

TOTAL CULTURAL, OVERHEAD AND HARVESTING COSTS 6,206.76

Annual Costs:

	Investment	Per Acre	Depreciation	Interest - 15%
2/3 charged to celery.	Buildings	\$ 60.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 4.50
Tractors are on an hourly basis	Irrig. Syst.	300.00	30.00	22.50
	Tractors	205.00	25.14	18.86
	Equipment	200.00	20.00	15.00
		<u>\$ 765.00</u>	<u>\$ 78.14</u>	<u>\$ 60.86</u>

3 About half of the celery acreage in the Salinas Valley is transplanted. If this practice is followed, soil preparation, listing, and bed shaping remain unchanged. Seeding and thinning is eliminated and herbicide applications are changed (as in /2 above). Transplants are either produced in farmers seed beds at about \$3 to \$3.50 per thousand or from greenhouses at about \$16.00 per thousand. At a 6 to 7 inch spacing, about 46,000 plants are required per acre. Labor costs to transplant are about \$250.00 per acre.

SAMPLE COSTS OF PRODUCTION AT VARYING YIELDS

YIELD: CRATES PER ACRE	800	900	1,000	1,100	1,200
CULTURAL & MATERIALS	1,508.78	1,508.78	1,508.78	1,508.78	1,508.78
OVERHEAD	697.98	697.98	697.98	697.98	697.98
HARVEST	3,200.00	3,600.00	4,000.00	4,400.00	4,800.00
ANNUAL COSTS	119.00	119.00	119.00	119.00	119.00
COST PER ACRE	5,525.76	5,925.76	6,325.76	6,725.76	7,125.76
COST PER CRATE	6.91	6.58	6.33	6.11	5.94