

SWEET POTATOES - YAMS

1953

WHAT WILL IT COST YOU TO GROW SWEET POTATOES

A. H. Holland, Farm Advisor

Wallace Sullivan, Extension Economist

(1) Based on yield of 10,000 lbs. per acre

ITEM	Sample Cost		Your Cost	
	Per Acre	Per CCwt.	Per Acre	Per Cwt.
<u>Land Preparation</u>				
Plow	1 time	5.00		
Disc	2 times	3.00		
Float & Level		4.00		
Harrow	1 time	1.00		
Fumigate Soil	1 time	25.00		
Ridging	1 time	3.00		
Plant & Replant		25.00		
TOTAL		66.00	.66	
<u>Cultural Labor & Field Power</u>				
Cultivate	4 times	6.00		
Irrigate	7 times	21.00		
Apply Fertilizer	2 times	5.00		
Hoeing	2 times	20.00		
Miscellaneous		6.00		
TOTAL		58.00	.58	
<u>Materials</u>				
Plants	12,000	60.00		
Water	30 inches	20.00		
Chicken Manure	250 ft.	25.00		
Commercial Fertilizer		30.00		
TOTAL		135.00	1.35	
<u>Cash Overhead</u>				
General Expense 5%		12.85		
(2) Taxes		- -		
Insurance		1.50		
Repairs		4.00		
TOTAL		18.35	.18	
<u>Harvesting</u>				
Beating Vines		5.00		
Digging		15.00		
Picking Up		50.00		
Hauling		20.00		
TOTAL		90.00	.90	
<u>TOTAL CASH COSTS</u>				
		367.35	3.67	
(2) Depreciation		- -		
Land Rent		90.00	.90	
(3) Management - Estimate your own		- -		

(1) About 300 packed lugs of marketable produce

(2) Included in other costs

(3) Management costs are real but too variable to be included

What Will It Cost To Grow Sweet Potatoes (continued)

SWEET POTATO STORAGE AND PACKING COSTS

Based on 10,000 lbs. per acre - No. 1's 70%, No. 2's, Jumbo & Seed 30%

ITEM	Sample	Cost	Your Cost	
	Per Acre	Per Cwt.	Per Acre	Per Cwt.
<u>Equipment & Materials</u>				
Storage, Shed or Tarpaper	6.25			
350 Field & Storage Boxes (5 yrs.)	8.40			
300 Lugs, Lids, Paper, Nails(at .18¢)	54.00			
TOTAL	68.65	.69		
Sorting & Packing Labor (30 lugs per day)	90.00	.90		
TOTAL - STORAGE AND PACKING COSTS	158.65	1.59		
TOTAL ALL COSTS - (Including Rent)	616.00	6.16		

SWEET POTATO PRODUCTION IN ORANGE COUNTY

Introduction:

Sweet potato production is well adapted to a considerable acreage of sandy land in Orange County. Recent plantings have ranged from 800 to 1100 acres annually. The long frost free season allows extended growing and harvesting period. Because of this, some growers never store their crop. They just market as they dig, being sure the crop is all harvested before January.

Varieties and Yields:

Strains of Porto Rico. Most common are "Velvet" and "Key West". County average yields are $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ tons per acre.

Propagation and Planting:

Seed bed set out in February. Plants set out April 15 - June 1. Later plantings have less yields.

Fertilization:

200-300 cubic feet per acre chicken, steer or 300-800 cubic feet per acre dairy. Some growers use commercial only - 60 to 100 pounds nitrogen.

Harvesting:

Some dig mid-August for high price. Best yields and stronger quality in October. November and December diggings may get chilled and not keep.

Marketing and Storage:

Packed Los Angeles lugs 34 pounds stored in apple boxes. Cure before storing.

Further information can be obtained from U. C. Cir. 431, "Sweet Potato Production and Handling in California".