

SOILS

Silt loams and sandy soils are preferred. The lighter soils provide better drainage during cold weather and warm up more readily. Lettuce has a moderately low degree of salt tolerance. Excess salinity results in poor seed germination and small heads.

IRRIGATION

Most growers use sprinklers until the seedlings emerge to provide better stands with reduced seeding rates. Gated pipe is also used especially near harvest. The irrigation labor costs used also include shovel work, grader work and pipe setting.

FERTILIZERS

Two hundred pounds of P_2O_5 are broadcast prior to listing. Nitrogen is sidedressed just after thinning and during later growth. Early, warm-season lettuce requires less N than that grown in January and February. About 150 lbs. N are used early, while 200 lbs. are applied to the cold weather crop.

WEED CONTROL

Herbicides are applied preplant. Some types are sprayed over the beds postplant while others are incorporated.

PESTS AND DISEASES

Watch for crickets, cutworms, salt marsh caterpillars, beet armyworms, and cabbage loopers. Cabbage loopers can be especially serious after thinning. The most serious diseases are big vein, damping-off diseases, and sclerotinia. Use mosaic-free seed 0:30000. Outbreaks of disease such as downy mildew could require an additional \$40 for control.

HARVESTING

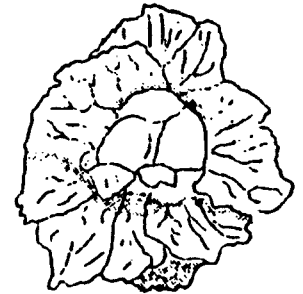
Most lettuce is field packed in cartons, trucked to vacuum coolers and shipped to market in refrigerated trucks. Field packing of film-wrapped heads is also common. Some companies bulk harvest lettuce in bins to be shredded for use by fast food outlets.

Cartons Per Acre	INCOME ABOVE ALL COSTS PER ACRE	
	\$	8.00
500	-656	+ 844
600	-556	+1244
700	-456	+1644
800	-356	+2044
900	-256	+2444

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lettuce sample costs and production



To simplify our information, it is sometimes necessary to use trade names of products or equipment. No endorsement of named products is intended nor is criticism implied of similar products which are not mentioned.

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