

GROWING CARROTS IN THE WESTERN VALLEYS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY

1955

Carrots have been grown on a limited scale in Western Riverside County. Although extensive information is not available on average yield possibilities, yields of over fifteen tons per acre have been secured in the Lakeview area.

PLANTING:

Varieties: The Long Emperor does well here and is of good quality.

Soil: Carrots require a well worked, compact seed bed. Alkali soils and clay type soils should be avoided especially if they tend to pack. Open sandy loam or loam soils are preferred for good root development.

Time: Carrots can be planted any time during the year. Predicted market needs at harvest time usually determine planting dates. A July 4th planting is ready by November 1 to 15; August 1-15 planting for December harvest; October 1 planting for May harvest. Carrots planted in warm weather for harvest in warm weather will be ready for harvest in three months.

How: Following listing the beds are made and seed planted in one operation. Three pounds of seed per acre, 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep in rows or scatter rows, 14 to 18 inches apart on beds spaced 38 to 40 inches apart is the method so far used in Western Riverside County.

IRRIGATION: Since carrot seed needs continually moist soil until sprouting, they are usually "irrigated up." Irrigation after this depends upon the time of the year and the soil. Summer plantings on some soils may need irrigation every week. They should not, at any time, suffer for lack of water.

FERTILIZERS: On a soil deficient in Nitrogen (following grain, Sudan Grass or other non-fertilized, non-legume crops) carrots may need up to 80 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre for maximum production and growth. Phosphate up to 60 pounds P_2O_5 per acre is needed on some Western Riverside County soils. Fertilizer should be applied at planting or side-dressed shortly after.

WEED CONTROL: Weeds in carrots can be controlled with special carrot oils at rates of 40 to 60 gallons per sprayed acre between the first true leaf to the four-leaf stage. Cultivation and hand hoeing are used as necessary thereafter.

PEST CONTROL: Where root knot nematode or wireworms are suspected in the soil, it should be fumigated several weeks before planting with E.D.B. or D.D. Follow manufacturers' directions. Dusting with D.D.T. for worm control in the growing crop may also be necessary. Seed treatment with Arasan SFK, 2 ounces per 100 pounds of seed or spergon S.L. - 8 ounces (slurry) per 100 pounds of seed will reduce losses from damping off.

HARVESTING: Carrots are bladed under previous to pulling. They may then be bunched for market, but the recent trend is to top them in the field and to pack and haul them from the field in 50 pound bags for further processing.

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WHAT DOES IT COST TO GROW CARROTS
IN THE WESTERN VALLEYS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Based on a yield of 600 50# Bags per acre.

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS		YOUR COSTS	
	Per Acre	Per 50# Bag	Per Acre	Per 50# Bag
<u>Land Preparation and Planting</u>				
Disc 1x	\$ 2.00		. . . . .	. . . . .
Chisel or Plow 1x	4.00		. . . . .	. . . . .
Disc 1x	2.00		. . . . .	. . . . .
Land Plane or Float 2x	4.00		. . . . .	. . . . .
Harrow 1x	1.00		. . . . .	. . . . .
List 1x	1.50		. . . . .	. . . . .
Plant and Shape Beds (in one operation).	2.00		. . . . .	. . . . .
Fumigate (if necessary)	30.00		. . . . .	. . . . .
TOTAL PREPARATION AND PLANTING	\$ 46.50	\$.08	. . . . .	. . . . .
<u>Cultural Labor and Field Power</u>				
Irrigate 12x at \$1.25	\$ 15.00		. . . . .	. . . . .
Side-Dress Fertilizer 1x	2.00		. . . . .	. . . . .
Apply weed oil 1x	1.00		. . . . .	. . . . .
Cultivate 1x at \$2.25	9.00		. . . . .	. . . . .
Hoe weeds	10.00		. . . . .	. . . . .
Apply Insecticide	1.50		. . . . .	. . . . .
TOTAL LABOR AND FIELD POWER	\$ 38.50	\$.06	. . . . .	. . . . .
<u>Materials</u>				
Oil (60 Gallons Per Acre at 18¢).	\$ 10.80		. . . . .	. . . . .
Insecticide	8.00		. . . . .	. . . . .
Seed - 3 pounds at \$2.50	7.50		. . . . .	. . . . .
Fertilizer (80# N. and if needed, 60# P ₂ O ₅)	18.00		. . . . .	. . . . .
Irrigation Water (3 acre feet at \$13.00)	39.00		. . . . .	. . . . .
TOTAL MATERIALS	\$ 83.30	\$.13	. . . . .	. . . . .
<u>Cash Overhead</u>				
General Expense at 5% of above	\$ 8.41		. . . . .	. . . . .
County Taxes	6.00		. . . . .	. . . . .
Insurance	1.00		. . . . .	. . . . .
Miscellaneous	2.00		. . . . .	. . . . .
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD	\$ 17.41	\$.03	. . . . .	. . . . .
Total Pre-Harvest Cost (Except Rent)	\$185.71	\$.30	. . . . .	. . . . .
Land Rent-Estimate your own. Ex. $\frac{1}{2}$ yr.	\$ 32.50	\$.05	. . . . .	. . . . .
TOTAL PRE-HARVEST COST	\$218.21	\$.35	. . . . .	. . . . .
<u>HARVESTING</u>				
Harvesting and Packing in 50# Bags	\$805.00	\$ 1.34	. . . . .	. . . . .
Total Growing Plus Harvest	1023.21	\$ 1.69	. . . . .	. . . . .

Note: The above SAMPLE COSTS are at the contract rate and are, in some cases, higher than efficient owner-operator costs. To calculate YOUR COSTS use the columns at the right of the page.