

PROCESSING ONION PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS

ON-SI-90-2

1989-1990

IMPERIAL COUNTY



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

PROCESSOR ONION CULTURE
1989-1990

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>YIELD/ACRE (TONS)</u>	<u>VALUE/TON</u>
1988	5904	22.2	\$ 68
1987	5014	21.5	68
1986	4457	22.2	72
1985	4237	16.5	78
1984	4219	17.8	75

PLANTING DATES: Contracting companies recommend the planting date to the grower and supply the seed. Planting dates may differ with variety, but normally processor onions will be planted from October 25 to November 20.

VARIETIES: Most processor onions are White Creole derivatives selected for a high soluble solids content.

SOILS: Onions require soils with a low salt content. Sandy or medium textured soils are the best.

IRRIGATION: Onions should never suffer from lack of water. Weather and soil conditions determine the number of irrigations. Sprinklers are used for germination. Also included in irrigation costs are expenses for shovel work, pipe setting and grading.

FERTILIZERS: Four hundred fifty pounds of 11-52-0 are broadcast prior to listing. Up to 200 pounds of nitrogen are applied during the growing season.

PEST CONTROL: Mites, thrips, armyworms, leafminers, maggots, downy mildew, purple blotch, and nematodes may be problems. Pink root is a soil-borne disease which can reduce yields significantly, field rotation and resistant varieties should be used when a problem is expected.

Herbicides are commonly applied pre and postemergence. Consult your farm advisor for latest recommendations.

HARVESTING: The onions are machine topped, undercut and covered with a fine layer of soil to cure before harvesting. The onions are then machine dug and lifted to a sorter to remove clods and excess debris before loading on trucks for shipment to the processing plant. All harvesting is done by the contractor. Contracts for acreage vary yearly according to the supplies on hand at the processing plant. Some years, there are large carryovers.

Processing Onion Projected Production Costs 1989-1990

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Hand labor at \$5.75 per hour (\$4.50 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, transportation, supervision and fringe benefits).

Yield- 20 Tons

OPERATION	CUSTOM RATE	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
LAND PREPARATION						
Stubble disc	18.25					18.25
Subsoil	29.25					29.25
Disc 1x	9.50					9.50
Landplane 2x	10.00					20.00
Border, cross check & break borders	15.00					15.00
Flood		Water 1/2 ac/ft	5.50	1	5.75	11.25
Fertilize	6.00	450# 11-52-0	61.00			67.00
Disc 2x	9.50					19.00
Triplane 1x	8.75					8.75
List	11.50					11.50
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						209.50
GROWING PERIOD						
Power mulch	18.00					18.00
Precision plant	16.75	Coated seed	N/C			16.75
Herbicide 2x	8.00	Herbicide	33.75			49.75
Sprinkler irrigate						145.00
Cultivate 2x	10.75					21.50
Fertilize & furrow out 2x	10.50	200# N @ .30	62.00			83.00
Weed control 2x	8.00	Herbicide	15.30			31.30
Hand weed				9	51.75	51.75
Irrigate 12x		Water 4 1/2 ac/ft	49.50	13	74.75	124.25
Insect control 5x	4.50	Insecticides	42.50			65.00
Disease control 3x	6.00	Fungicides	45.00			63.00
Disc 1x	9.50					9.50
TOTAL GROWING PERIOD						678.80
GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREPARATION COSTS						888.30
Land Rent (net acres)						200.00
Cash Overhead-----		12% of preharvest costs & land rent				130.60
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS						1218.90

HARVEST COSTS None -- contracted @ 73.00 / ton return to grower

	PROJECTED INCOME ABOVE COSTS (PER ACRE)						
	<u>tons/acre</u>						
	14.00	16.00	18.00	20.00	22.00	Breakeven	
						tons/acre	
\$/Ton	73.00	-197	-51	95	241	387	17

GUIDELINES TO PRODUCTION COSTS AND PRACTICES
IMPERIAL COUNTY CROPS, CIRCULAR 104
 1989 - 1990

CUSTOM RATE CHARGES

HEAVY TRACTOR WORK

PRICE/ACRE

Plow	\$ 24.75
Subsoil 2nd Gear	29.25
Disc, Regular	9.50
Disc, Stubble	18.25
Float	8.25
Triplane	8.75
List, Regular	11.50
List, and Rerun 80" Melon Beds	22.00
Reshape 80" Melon Beds	10.00
Landplane	10.00
Chisel	20.75

PLANTING AND CULTIVATING

Plant and Shape Melon Beds	16.75
Precision Plant 42" Beds	14.50
Plant Carrots	13.75
Plant Onions	16.75
Cultivate 4-Row 42" Beds	10.75
Cultivate Melon Beds	14.00
Spike and Furrow Out (2 row)	10.50
Lilliston	9.50
Furrow out alone	8.00
Move N-Side 80" Beds for Irrigation	9.50

INCORPORATING, BORDER AND BED WORK

Power Incorporate herbicides	20.25
Border, Cross checks and Break Borders	15.00
Bust Melon Beds	9.00
Roll Beds	5.00

FERTILIZER APPLICATION

Broadcast Fertilizer	6.00
Inject Fertilizer (Flat)	9.00
Fertilize and Furrow Out 42" Beds	10.50
Fertilize and Furrow Out 80" Beds	10.50

IRRIGATION

Custom Sprinkle	135.00-145.00
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MISCELLANEOUS

Motor Grader/Hour	42.75
Chop Broccoli, Corn Stalks, Etc.	10.00
Water truck/Hour	34.00
Cultipacker	6.00
Ground Spray Pesticides (4 Row)	7.00
Aerial Spray 5 Gal. (Insecticides)	4.50
Aerial Spray 10 Gal. (Fungicides)	5.00