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SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE CAULIFLOWER FOR FRESH MARKET IN MONTEREY COUNTY - 1981

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

YIELD: 425 25 lb. cartons per acre
 HARVEST: Mid-March through December
 PLANT: January through December

TOTAL LABOR COSTS/HOUR¹

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

Operation	Tractor Used	Hours/Acre	Labor	Fuel & Repairs	Contract and Materials	Total Acre
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CULTURAL:

Cover crop - manure					Proportion of cost to cauliflower	60.00
Subsoil 2x (1/2 to cauliflower)	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. #500 12-12-12 \$67.50	75.50
Shape beds	WD-60	0.25	2.28	1.84		4.12
Plant-4 bed planter	WD-60	0.42	3.83	3.74	Seed 1/2 lb. \$17.50	25.07
Herbicide ²					Contract @ \$9.50/ac. Materials @ \$12.38	21.88
Irrigation 8x (3 sprinkler, 5 furrow)		15.0	122.25	12.00	2.5 ac. ft. @ \$36.00 per ac. ft., \$4.00 booster pump	228.25
Thin		9.5	76.19			76.19
Side dress fert. 2x					Contract @ \$7.25/ac. 175# N @ \$61.52	76.02
Pest control 2.5x					Contract @ \$8.25/ac. Materials \$45.71/ac.	66.34
Cultivate 5x	WD-60	1.2	10.93	7.62		18.55
Tie Tops ³		10.5	84.21		Rubber bands @ \$13.75	97.96
Hoe & Weed		8.0	64.16			64.16
Miscellaneous (incl. set up & moving)		4.0	34.68	9.50		44.18

CULTURAL COSTS	923.25
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Overhead:

Business Costs: Office and business expense, etc. @ 15% of cultural costs	138.49
Taxes: Equipment	5.00
Rent: \$550.00 per acre, 6 mos. to cauliflower	275.00

OVERHEAD COSTS	418.49
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Harvest: Contract @ \$4.25 per carton (cost includes harvesting, hauling, packing, carton and sales charge)	1,806.25
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TOTAL CULTURAL, OVERHEAD AND HARVESTING COSTS	3,147.99
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Annual Costs:

	Investment	Per Acre	Depreciation	Interest - 15%
1/2 charged to cauliflower.				
Buildings	60.00		3.00	4.50
Tractors are on an hourly basis				
Irrig. Syst.	300.00		30.00	22.50
Tractors	205.00		23.90	17.93
Equipment	200.00		20.00	15.00
	765.00		76.90	59.93

¹ Months (except tractors and equipment) to cauliflower 106 83

3 Cauliflower tops are tied to produce maximum quality. It costs about \$168.42 for labor and \$27.50 for rubber bands per acre. Assuming about one half of the acreage is tied during the year, one half of the labor, 10.5 hours or \$84.21 and the \$13.75 cost of rubber bands was assigned to production costs.

SAMPLE COSTS OF PRODUCTION AT VARYING YIELDS

YIELD: CARTONS PER ACRE	375	400	425	450	475
CULTURAL COSTS	923.25	923.25	923.25	923.25	923.25
OVERHEAD	418.49	418.49	418.49	418.49	418.49
HARVEST COSTS	1,593.75	1,700.00	1,806.25	1,912.50	2,018.75
ANNUAL COSTS	106.83	106.83	106.83	106.83	106.83
TOTAL COST PER ACRE	3,042.32	3,148.57	3,254.82	3,361.07	3,467.32
TOTAL COST PER CARTON	8.11	7.87	7.66	7.47	7.30
