

SAMPLE INPUTS AND COSTS FOR STAKED TOMATOES* (Santa Clara County)

Local History and Adaptation

Acreage devoted to pole tomato production in the county has held fairly constant for the past five years, with lows of about 150 and highs slightly over 200 acres. Yields of 2500 to 3000 boxes, (25# lugs), are considered good. Occasionally, yields in excess of 3500 boxes are reported. At present, the entire acreage is in the north end of the county, although soil and climatic requirements are not involved in this limitation.

Varieties

Ace is apparently the most popular variety, although a number of others including V.F.6; V.F.11; V-10; John Moran, etc. are grown.

Cultural Practices

Plantings are made beginning in mid to late February. Direct seeding has become increasingly popular, but transplants are also used, particularly for the later plantings. Row spacing is from 50 to 60 inches, with plants spaced in the row at 12 to 24 inches.

Four to five deep irrigations are made prior to harvest, followed by frequent light irrigations between picks. Fertilizer is applied, (broadcast), before planting and during harvest in the irrigation water. Consult your Farm Advisor as to type and amount per acre.

Setting of poles or stakes is generally done with a hydraulic pusher and may involve either 1" x 1" poles set at approximately 1 foot intervals or 2" x 2" stakes set 10 to 14 feet apart. The 2" x 2" stakes are strung with 4 or 5 strands of wire. String is sometimes used at the lower levels.

Disease and Pests

Verticillium wilt and spotted wilt are the two most serious disease problems in this area. The use of verticillium resistant varieties is increasing despite the fact that growers may prefer the characteristics of some of the non-resistant varieties.

Insect problems are ever present and include nearly all those listed under tomatoes in the University of California - Agricultural Extension Service 1961 Vegetable Crop Pest Control Guide.

Harvest and Packing Shed Operations

Picking is generally done by use of standard tomato lug boxes carried on wheelbarrows designed for this purpose. Intervals of picking vary with weather and market conditions.

Packing costs to the grower, when done on a custom basis is presently \$1.00 per box. Growers who have a sufficiently large volume may be justified in setting up their own packing shed.

*-- These costs were developed from grower inquiry and represent a typical schedule under good management, rather than a county average.

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SAMPLE INPUTS AND COSTS FOR STAKED TOMATOES
WITH A YIELD OF 2800 BOXES (PACK OUT), OR 40 TONS GROSS PER ACRE

	Man	Crawler	Wheel	Truck	Cost Per Acre	Cost Per Box
	Labor	Tractor	Tractor	Pick up		
	Hours Per Acre					
Land Preparation	4.0	3.5		.1	11.40	
Fertilize before planting	.3		.3	.1	1.00	
Furrow out for planting	.5		.5		1.25	
Plant	12.0			.1	13.35	
Cultivate twice before poles	1.0		1.0		2.50	
Irrigate 15 times, total	30.0				37.50	
Hoe and Weed 2 or 3 times	30.0				33.00	
Set stakes by machine	16.0		7.0	1.0	30.30	
Placing string and wires	110.0			.2	137.80	
Cultivation in rows (5 times)	5.0		5.0		10.00	
Dust (5 times)	4.0		4.0	.1	8.50	
Miscellaneous other	10.0	.5	.5	1.0	15.75	
Post Harvest, remove & store wire	36.0		3.0	1.0	46.70	
Remove and store stakes	12.0			3.0	21.90	
Total cultural labor	270.8	4.0	21.3	6.6	370.95	13.2¢
Picking, including supervision	350.0				399.00	14.2
Hauling to packing house	30.0			15.0	75.00	2.7
Total Harvesting	380.0			15.0	474.00	16.9
Total labor and field power	650.8	4.0	21.3	21.6	844.95	30.1
Irrigation water - power to pump 3 acre feet @ \$6.00					18.00	
Plants - 6000 @ \$7.00 per M					42.00	
Fertilizers to furnish about 300 lb. N. 100 lb. P and 100 lb. K					70.00	
Dust 180 lbs. @ 12¢					21.60	
Stakes (2000 per acre - 5 years) 400 new a year @ 22¢					88.00	
Wire, twine and staples, annual expense					30.00	
Total materials					269.60	9.7
Total labor and materials					1114.55	39.8
General and office expense, est. at 5% of above					55.73	
Taxes on equipment					2.00	
Compensation and Social Security Insurance					30.00	
Rent - land and irrigation system					80.00	
Total cash overhead					167.73	6.0
Total Cash costs					1282.28	45.8
Investment overhead based on	Original	Av.	6%	Depre-		
120 acres mixed crops, about	Cost	Value	Int.	ciation		
20 acres tomatoes	Total	Dollars per crop acre				
Service building for equipment	1000	4.17	.25	.28		
Tractors, truck, pickup	17700	73.75	4.42	9.83		
Tillage equipment	3600	15.00	.90	3.00		
Stake setter, wire eqt., wheelbarrow	2400	60.00	3.60	12.00		
Misc. small & shop tools	1200	5.00	.30	1.00		
Total investment and depr.	25900	157.92		26.11	26.11	0.9
Total cash & deprec. costs					1308.39	46.7
Interest on investment			9.47		9.47	.3
TOTAL ALL COSTS					1317.86	47.0

The above labor costs are figured at the following hourly rates: tractor driver \$1.50; Irrigator \$1.25; hand work \$1.10; 30 h.p. crawler tractor \$1.50; 20-30 h.p. wheel tractor \$1.00; narrow 10 hp tractor \$0.50; 2-ton truck \$2.50; pick-up \$1.50. These equipment rates are cash costs only, gasoline, oil, repairs, license, taxes, etc. Overhead is shown above on an acre basis as spread over about 120 acres of total crops.