

CAULIFLOWER

Yields

Yields for the past 5 years ranged from 384 to 547 23 lb. cartons per acre. Cost for 500, 400, and 600 cartons are shown here.

Varieties and Seed

Snowball Y is the standard variety. A variety that will do better in January and February is needed.

Soil and Climate

Most soils of the Oxnard Plain are satisfactory for cauliflower if they are well leveled, well drained, and salinity is not excessive.

Most of the cauliflower on the Oxnard Plain is harvested while the average maximum temperature is between 65 degrees and 75 degrees F. and the average minimum is between 43 degrees and 52 degrees F. These temperatures prevail from the middle of October to the first of June. Although temperatures at Oxnard in December and early January (av. max., 67; av. min., 47) are satisfactory for maturing of cauliflower planted before September 25, they are not warm enough for proper plant growth of cauliflower planted in October, November, and December for harvesting in February and early March. Cauliflower field-seeded in January and February encounters temperatures suitable for growing crops to be harvested in late April and May.

When to Plant and Harvest

Field seeding for the fall crop to be harvested from the middle of October to the middle of January is from July 15 to September 30. Field seeding for the spring crop to be harvested from late April through May is in late December, January, and February. For harvesting in March and April cauliflower is transplanted in late December, January, and February. It is difficult to have good cauliflower from the middle of January to the middle of March.

A tentative planting schedule showing how much to plant per week for harvesting at a rate of 10 acres a week is on page 28.

For continuous spring harvesting to June 1, field seeding should start about 4 weeks before transplanting stops. For both transplanting and field seeding 7 acres a week will result in maturity at 10 acres a week for the spring crop.

Planting, Cultivating, and Weed Control

Most cauliflower is now planted 2 rows to a bed. (Beds are spaced at 40" center to center. Row spacings are 14 inches across the bed and 26 inches across the across the furrow.)

To avoid damage by tractors and trailers at harvest time some growers omit rows next to furrows in which wheels will pass. One driveway serves 8 beds where no cross-row conveyor is used. With a 20 foot cross-row conveyor one driveway could serve 16 beds. Plants are spaced at about 14 inches.

Spacing trials have shown that increasing the plant population 50 to 100 percent by planting two rows per bed, instead of one, increases yield of size 16 heads without reducing the yield of size 12 heads. Wide spacings increase the percent of size 12 heads, but reduce total yield.

Irrigation

Irrigation for germination is by furrow or sprinkler. Yield and quality depend on plants growing vigorously from germination to harvest, so irrigations need to be frequent enough to prevent plant stress for moisture.

Pest and Disease Control

Aphids and worms are the major insect pests. Fields need to be examined frequently and pesticides applied so fields are free of pests when head formation starts.

In very wet weather, downey mildew causes some losses.

University of California recommendations for pest and disease control are available from the farm advisors office.

Acres, Yields, and Prices as Reported by Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner

Year	Acres	23 Lb Cartons/A	\$/Carton	\$/A
1970	290	576	2.16	1244
1971	356	574	3.31	1900
1972	881	556	3.80	2113
1973	1056	409	4.89	2000
1974	1567	510	4.21	2147
1975	2250	496	4.31	2138
1976	1834	462	4.13	1906
1977	2029	503	4.72	2372
1978	1756	547	5.69	3114
1979	2070	384	6.12	2351
1980	2034	437	6.61	2889
1981	2655	466	6.57	3061
1982	2769	529	7.02	3711
1983	2497	419	6.19	2594
1984	2508	431	7.16	3084

CAULIFLOWER - CASH FLOW INCLUDING LAND RENT AND SUPERVISION

Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
<u>Start</u>					
\$800					
<u>Grow</u>					
\$450					
<u>Harvest</u>					
\$2,065					

TENTATIVE PLANTING SCHEDULE FOR CAULIFLOWER, 1977

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University of California

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Planting Date	Acres to Plant/Week For Harvesting 10 A/Wk	Date of First Harvest	Planting Date	Acres to Plant/Week For Harvesting 10 A/Wk	Date of First Harvest
July 1	11	Sept. 24	Nov. 18*	8	Mar. 15
8	11	Oct. 2	25*	8	20
15	11	10	Dec. 2*	8	25
22	11	17	9*	8	30
29	11	25	16*	7	Apr. 4
Aug. 5	11	Nov. 3	23	7	9
12	11	10	30	7	14
19	12	17	Jan. 6	7	19
26	16	26	13	7	24
Sept. 2	19	Dec. 10	20	7	29
9	18	24	27	7	May 4
16	16	Jan. 7	Feb. 3	7	10
23	13	15	10	7	15
30	13	23	17	7	20
Oct. 7	13	31	24	7	25
14*	12	Feb. 8	Mar. 3	7	31
21*	11	16	10	7	June 5
28*	10	23	17	7	11
Nov. 4*	10	Mar. 1	24	7	16
11*	9	8	31	7	21

TENTATIVE TRANSPLANTING SCHEDULE FOR CAULIFLOWER, 1977

Transplanting Date	Acres to Trans./Week For Harvesting 10 A/Wk.	Date of First Harvest	Transplanting Date	Acres to Trans./Week For Harvesting 10 A/Wk.	Date of First Harvest
Oct. 21	10	Jan. 11	Dec. 30	10	Mar. 22
28	10	18	Jan. 6	10	29
Nov. 4	10	25	13	9	Apr. 4
11*	10	Feb. 1	20	8	10
18*	10	8	27	7	15
25*	10	15	Feb. 3	7	20
Dec. 2*	10	22	10	7	25
9*	10	Mar. 1	17	7	30
16	10	9	24	7	May 5
23	10	16	Mar. 3	7	10
			10	7	14

* Plantings on these dates may fail because of cool weather while plants are young.
 Plantings on these dates may fail because of warm weather at harvest.

These schedules are based on planting and harvest date records provided by Dullam Ranch, Pleasant Valley Co-op, and Santa Clara Farms.

LOW AND HIGH THURSDAY LOS ANGELES WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES
 FOR CAULIFLOWER IN DOLLARS PER 23 POUND CARTON OF 12 WRAPPED HEADS
 1981 THRU 1984

DOLLARS PER 23 POUND CARTONS OF 12 WRAPPED HEADS * AND : = .4
 0 4 8 12 16 20 24

	0	4	8	12	16	20	24
JAN 81	*****	*****	*****	*****			
FEB 81	*****	*****	*****	*****			
MAR 81	*****	*****	*****	*****			
APR 81	*****	*****	*****	*****			
MAY 81	*****	*****	*****	*****			
JUN 81	*****	*****	*****	*****			
JUL 81	*****	*****	*****	*****			
AUG 81	*****	*****	*****	*****			
SEP 81	*****	*****	*****	*****			
OCT 81	*****	*****	*****	*****			
NOV 81	*****	*****	*****	*****			
DEC 81	*****	*****	*****	*****			
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JAN 82	*****	*****	*****	*****			
FEB 82	*****	*****	*****	*****			
MAR 82	*****	*****	*****	*****			
APR 82	*****	*****	*****	*****			
MAY 82	*****	*****	*****	*****			
LUN	*****	*****	*****	*****			
JUL 82	*****	*****	*****	*****			
AUG 82	*****	*****	*****	*****			
SEP 82	*****	*****	*****	*****			
OCT 82	*****	*****	*****	*****			
NOV 82	*****	*****	*****	*****			
DEC 82	*****	*****	*****	*****			
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JAN 83	*****	*****	*****	*****			
FEB 83	*****	*****	*****	*****			
MAR 83	*****	*****	*****	*****			
APR 83	*****	*****	*****	*****			
MAY 83	*****	*****	*****	*****			
JUN 83	*****	*****	*****	*****			
JUL 83	*****	*****	*****	*****			
AUG 83	*****	*****	*****	*****			
SEP 83	*****	*****	*****	*****			
OCT 83	*****	*****	*****	*****			
NOV 83	*****	*****	*****	*****			
DEC 83	*****	*****	*****	*****			
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JAN 84	*****	*****	*****	*****			
FEB 84	*****	*****	*****	*****			
MAR 84	*****	*****	*****	*****			
APR 84	*****	*****	*****	*****			
MAY 84	*****	*****	*****	*****			
JUN 84	*****	*****	*****	*****			
JUL 84	*****	*****	*****	*****			
AUG 84	*****	*****	*****	*****			
SEP 84	*****	*****	*****	*****			
OCT 84	*****	*****	*****	*****			
NOV 84	*****	*****	*****	*****			
DEC 84	*****	*****	*****	*****			

0 4 8 12 16 20 24

