

April 1955  
500 c.  
3.461

University of California  
CC-SI-55 Agricultural Extension Service  
Imperial County

CUCUMBERS 1955

WHAT DOES IT COST YOU TO GROW EARLY SPRING CUCUMBERS?  
(Based on 500 crates per acre)

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS		YOUR COSTS	
	Per A.	Per flat	Per A.	Per flat
<b>LAND PREPARATION</b>				
Chisel or plow 1X	5.00			
Disc 2X	3.50			
Float 2X	3.00			
Beds	5.00			
Miscellaneous	2.00			
<b>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION</b>	<b>18.50</b>	<b>.03</b>		
<b>CULTURAL LABOR AND FIELD POWER</b>				
Planting 1X	1.25			
Capping	8.00			
Cultivating 5X	6.25			
Irrigating 8X	8.00			
Thin and replant 1X	20.00			
Hoe 1-2X	20.00			
Fertilizer application 3X	4.25			
Brushing 1½X	30.00			
Turning vines 4X	30.00			
Pest Control 5X	5.00			
Miscellaneous	2.00			
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL</b>	<b>134.75</b>	<b>.26</b>		
<b>MATERIALS</b>				
Water 1½†	4.00			
Fertilizer--organic & commercial	30.00			
Seed 2 lbs.	3.50			
Insecticides 75#	18.00			
Caps (paper) 2500	20.50			
Brush	78.00			
Paper	34.00			
Wire 100#	13.00			
Stacks 100/A	17.00			
Miscellaneous	5.00			
<b>TOTAL MATERIALS</b>	<b>223.00</b>	<b>.44</b>		
<b>CASH OVERHEAD</b>				
General expenses 5% of above	19.91			
Taxes--included in rent				
Insurance and miscellaneous	1.50			
<b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</b>	<b>21.41</b>	<b>.04</b>		
Depreciation included in rent & rates				
Renting land ½ year	30.00	.06		
<b>SUB TOTAL UP TO HARVEST</b>	<b>427.66</b>	<b>.83</b>		
Harvest--pick and haul	110.00	.22		
<b>TOTAL ALL COSTS</b>	<b>537.66</b>	<b>1.05</b>		

NOTE For fall maturing cucumbers deduct the cost of capping, and brush covering. These costs are based on a normal growing season. Weather, insects, and plant diseases often raise the above costs.

Estimate your own costs by filling in the last two columns based on yields you could reasonably expect and costs of operations and material that would be required on your land.

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## CUCUMBER PRODUCTION

**CLIMATE:** Cucumbers are a warm weather crop and grow best when temperatures are above 80° F. Cucumbers require frost protection during December, January and February.

**SOIL:** Cucumbers can be grown successfully on most of the soil types in Imperial County. Fruit maturity is earlier on the lighter soils.

**ACREAGE:** The acreage rarely exceeds 500 acres per year.

**PLANTING DATE:** Cucumbers for spring harvest are planted in December and harvested late in March or early April. Fall harvested cucumbers are planted in August.

**LAND PREPARATION:** See cost sheet under land preparation.

**VARIETIES:** The most popular variety is Marketer with limited plantings of Colorado and Straight 8.

**IRRIGATION:** The first irrigation is applied after the beds have been formed. When the beds have dried, they are mulched, and shaped with a V-shaper on the south side and planted. After planting, the beds are irrigated to insure moisture for good germination. The next irrigation usually follows cap removal. When the plants begin to run and set fruit, the irrigation schedule is about every two weeks. At harvest time most growers irrigate every three to five days. A good supply of moisture in the beds during the growing season is very important.

**FERTILIZATION:** All the phosphate and a third of the nitrogen should be put on ahead of bed formation. Some growers use chicken manure along with the commercial, but actually is not necessary. Usually, 60 lbs. of nitrogen and 120 lbs. of phosphate is enough for a crop of cucumbers. The balance of the nitrogen is put on soon after cap removal.

**PESTS AND DISEASES:** Growers should inspect their fields regularly for insects and diseases. Cutworms, aphids, leafhoppers, leafminers, and red spider mites are the most serious pests of cucumber.

Scedling diseases, nematodes, powdery mildew, and virus diseases are the most serious on cucumbers. There are controls for some of these diseases provided the proper control measures are used at the right time. Contact your Farm Advisor for the latest recommendations.

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