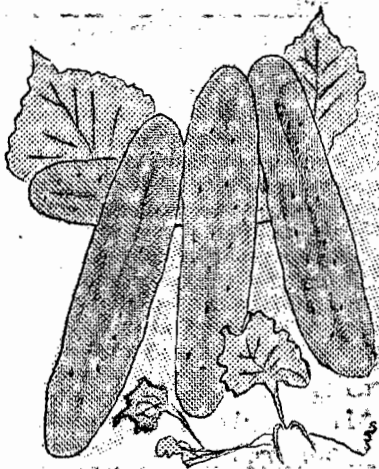


cucumbers

sample costs

and

production



University of California
Agricultural Extension Service
Imperial County
Court House, El Centro

Fact Sheet No. 23
UC Cooperative Extension

CUCUMBERS--SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
LAND PREPARATION	
Plow 1x	\$ 8.00
Disc 2x	3.50
Float 1x	1.50
Border	.75
Irrigate 1x	1.00
Knock down borders	.75
Disc 1x	1.75
Float 1x	1.50
Fertilizer (pre-plant)	2.00
Bedding	5.00
Ditching	.75
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION	\$ 26.50

CULTURAL LABOR AND POWER	
Mulch beds	\$ 4.00
Planting 1x	2.50
*Capping 1½x	30.00
Cultivating 6x	21.00
Irrigating 8x	9.00
Thin, replant & weed	30.00
Fertilizer application 3x	9.00
*Brushing	60.00
Turning vines	16.00
Setting irrigation pipes	5.00
Pest control 5x	10.00
TOTAL CULTURAL LABOR AND POWER	\$ 196.50

MATERIALS	
Water 3'	6.00
Fertilizer--organic & commercial	20.00
Seed 2 lbs.	3.50
Insecticides	18.00

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
*Caps (paper) 2,500	\$ 21.00
*Brush - 1st year \$78, 2nd year	24.00
*Paper	40.00
*Wire - 100# 1st year \$13, 2nd year	3.00
*Sticks 100/A. 1st year \$17, 2nd year.	8.00
TOTAL MATERIALS	\$ 143.50
CASH OVERHEAD	
General expenses 8% of above	29.32
LAND RENT	65.00
TOTAL ALL COSTS	\$ 460.82

*NOTE: For fall maturing cucumbers deduct the cost of caps and capping, brush and brushing. Labor costs are based on 90¢ per hour wage.

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.

ACREAGE
The acreage rarely exceeds 500 acres per year; only 230 acres were grown in 1958-1959 season.

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

SOILS
Cucumbers can be grown successfully on most of the soil types in Imperial County. Sandy and sandy loam soils are preferred.

LAND PREPARATION

Crop history will determine the type of land preparation followed. (See table.)

VARIETIES

The most popular variety is Marketer, with limited plantings of Colorado and Straight 8.

YIELD

Average yield is 500 crates per acre.

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

Cucumbers should receive 90 to 120 lbs. of phosphate applied ahead of bed formation. Eighty to 100 lbs. of nitrogen are applied in split applications. Half the nitrate before bed formation, and the rest sidedressed after runners are formed.

Ten tons per acre of steer manure has given good results. Manure should be applied before plowing or discing and first irrigation. Manure should have time to decompose before planting. When plants form first runners, side dress with 40 to 60 lbs. of nitrogen.

PESTS AND DISEASES

Growers should inspect their fields regularly for insects and diseases. Cutworms, aphids, leafhoppers, leaf-miners, and red spider mites are the most serious pests of cucumber.

Seedling diseases, nematodes, powdery mildew, and virus diseases, are the most serious on cucumbers. Consult the Vegetable Crop Pest and Disease Control Guide for Imperial County for the latest recommendations. Copies are available at your Farm Advisors' office. UC Cooperative Extension

Prepared by
James R. Breece
Farm Advisor

April 1961

Co-operative Extension work in Agriculture and Home Economics, College of Agriculture, University of California, and United States Department of Agriculture co-operating. Distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8, and June 30, 1914. George B. Alcorn, Director, California Agricultural Extension Service.

UC Cooperative Extension