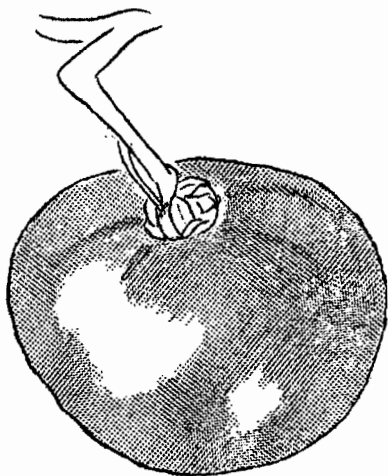


canning tomatoes

sample costs

and

production



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

CANNING/TOMATOES—SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
LAND PREPARATION (following vegetables)	
Renovating	\$ 4.00
Disc 1x	1.75
Float 1x	1.50
Bedding & ditch work	4.50
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION	\$ 11.75
CULTURAL LABOR AND POWER	
Planting, transferring plants	26.00
Cultivating and move beds 2x	5.00
Fertilizing	2.75
Hoe	10.00
Irrigating	10.00
Pest control applications 6x	9.00
TOTAL CULTURAL POWER	\$ 62.75
MATERIALS	
*Plants (8,000 per A. @ \$8 per 1,000)	64.00
Water 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ '	9.00
Pest control materials	13.00
Fertilizer	20.00
TOTAL MATERIALS	\$ 106.00
CASH OVERHEAD	
General expense (administration, supervision, insurance) 8% of the above	9.32
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD	\$ 189.82
LAND RENT, one-half year	30.00
TOTAL ALL COSTS	\$ 219.82

*Commercial nursery price. Plants from local tomato growers who are thinning cost \$2.50 per 1,000. They are acclimated and perform well. There is danger that these plants may be infected with root-knot nematode. Inspection before planting is recommended. Commercial tomato nurseries are generally free of root-knot nematode.

HISTORY

Tomatoes have been grown for many years throughout the county, principally for market. Cannerys have taken tomatoes after market prices dropped, which has made supplies uncertain. A few cannery deals have been tried with variable success.

VARIETIES

For market, Pearson, Pennheart, and Earlypak 7 have been grown. For earliness, the Earlypak 7 and Pennheart are the best varieties. Pearson is a good high yielding cannery type tomato but is usually too late for this area. Earlypak 7 is usually earlier than Pearson and yields well under desert conditions.

PLANTING DATE

Transplants are planted around the middle of February on 12" spacing. Seeded tomatoes are generally planted from February 1st to February 15th.

SOILS

For high production the medium to hard soils are favored. Land suited to good lettuce production and alfalfa should produce good tomatoes.

PLANTING

Beds used for planting are similar in slope to cantaloupe beds and

placed 5 feet apart. Direct seeding is practiced, and the seed row is placed from 10 to 20 inches from the bottom of the south slope of the bed. The crop is "subbed up".

FERTILIZERS

Fertilizer requirements depend on the previous crop history.

Sixty pounds of nitrogen fertilizer may be all that is required if the previous crop was a heavily fertilized vegetable crop. One hundred pounds of nitrogen will be required if tomatoes follow other crops. Nitrogen is applied in two or more applications after thinning.

Yields are increased by application of phosphorus fertilizer and phosphorus is applied ahead of planting. Little or no yield increase is gained from applications higher than 60 pounds of P_2O_5 per acre.

Plants receiving 120 to 180 pounds of P_2O_5 per acre are slightly larger than those receiving only 60 pounds. This extra foliage may protect plants from sunburn.

Ten tons of steer manure per acre on occasion has given a response equal to high rates of nitrogen and phosphate. Manure should be free of weed seeds.

IRRIGATION

Initial subbing should be continued until beds are wet through. Subsequent wetting is continued until moisture has been subbed well past seed row.

Tomatoes normally are deep-rooted but under Imperial County conditions this is doubtful. Don't allow plants to suffer for moisture. Irrigations are usually made between pickings.

PESTS AND DISEASES

Fusarium wilt, tobacco mosaic, and curly top are some of the diseases that cause serious loss to growers.

Fusarium wilt fungi exist in many soils in Imperial County. Avoid land that is infested with this fungus if you are planting susceptible varieties. Several tomato varieties are resistant to fusarium wilt and are in commercial use.

Tobacco mosaic is caused by a virus. There are many strains of the virus, each of which has a different effect on the plant.

Fruit may be deformed into odd shapes or marked with brown streaks. None of the commercially grown tomatoes in California is resistant to this disease. Smokers should wash their hands before handling plants.

Curly top is a virus disease that is spread by the beef leafhopper. None of the commercial tomatoes grown in California is resistant to curly top.

If you wish more information on disease and insect control, consult your Farm Advisor. Copies of the University of California Pest & Disease Control Guide for Imperial County are available at ~~the~~ Farm Advisors' office.

HARVESTING

Picking is done directly into 50 lb. boxes. Frequent picking is necessary.

Fruits cannot be allowed to remain on the vine after maturity.

Pickers should replace all plants to cover the green fruit and protect them from sunburning.

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