Celery - 1951
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# WHAT WILL IT COST YOU TO GROW CELERY?

Basis of 1200 crates - per acre*

| Items | Sample Costs | | Your Costs | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Per Acre | Per Crate | Per Acre | Per Crate |
| Land Preparation | | | | |
| Disc - 1X | $ 4.00 | | | |
| Sub-soil - 1X | 1.50 | | | |
| Plow - 1X | 4.50 | | | |
| Disc - 5X; chisel - 2X | 10.50 | | | |
| Harrow or drag - 2X | 2.00 | | | |
| Float or level - 1X | 2.00 | | | |
| Soil fungus control - 1X (Pink root) | 1.50 | | | |
| Furrow out - 1X | 1.50 | | | |
| Total Land Preparation | 27.50 | .02 | | |
| Transplanting | 60.00 | .05 | | |
| Cultural Labor and Field Power | | | | |
| Cultivate and furrow out - 4X | 8.00 | | | |
| Hoe and weed - 2X | 30.00 | | | |
| Irrigate - 16X | 32.00 | | | |
| Fertilize - 3X | 12.00 | | | |
| Pest control - dust - spray - 8X | 32.00 | | | |
| Miscellaneous | 5.00 | | | |
| Total Cultural Labor & Field Power | 119.00 | .10 | | |
| Materials | | | | |
| Water - 60" | 30.00 | | | |
| Plants - 50,000 | 382.50 | | | |
| Fertilizer-commercial 300# N | 180.00 | | | |
| Fertilizer - organic - 4T | 20.80 | | | |
| Pest control - dust - spray - 8X | 160.00 | | | |
| Miscellaneous | 5.00 | | | |
| Total Materials | 778.30 | .65 | | |
| Cash Overhead | | | | |
| General Expense - 5% | 49.24 | | | |
| Taxes | 2.00 | | | |
| Repairs | 5.00 | | | |
| Insurance | 2.00 | | | |
| Total Cash Overhead | 58.24 | .05 | | |
| Depreciation - Included in Rent | 3.00 | | | |
| Interest on Investment or Rent | 100.00 | .09 | | |
| Total Cost up to Harvest | 1146.04 | .96 | | |
| Harvest Cost | | | | |
| Plow out | 3.60 | | | |
| Cut and trim | 144.00 | | | |
| Haul out | 72.00 | | | |
| Total Harvest Cost to Shed | 219.60 | .18 | | |
| TOTAL ALL COSTS | 1365.64 | 1.14 | | |

* 65# per crate

Figure your own costs in the last two columns.

# CELERY PRODUCTION IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

General: Celery is well adapted to the heavy soils and cool climate of the southwest coastal section of Los Angeles County. Within this area the Venice acreage produces the bulk of the crop. Though some celery is produced the year around, the maximum production is between April and July when the Venice area is in production.

Costs shown in this study are not intended to be average for the industry. They are intended to serve as a guide to show how costs can be broken down, and to provide a basis of comparison for the growers' own costs.

1. Variety: Pascal short top is grown exclusively in the Venice and other areas for spring and summer production. Some long shank is grown for fall and winter harvest. Seeds are obtained from commercial seed companies, although some growers have their own strains.

2. Transplanting: Celery plants for field transplanting are produced under glass in flats of 110 each. Greenhouse planting in the Venice area starts on September 19th. This date is set because of a mosaic protection program, requiring a celery free period prior to the winter season. This period which prohibits growing celery in the field between August 20th and November 19th determines when planting begins and ends.

Plants are transplanted both by machine and hand. The plants are spaced 4 inches apart in rows that are 24 inches on center. Some growers feel that transplanting by hand is faster, but most agree that machine planting has certain advantages. It enables a small crew (7 men) to plant large acreages more easily and efficiently. Machine planting is uniform as to depth, placing the plant down into moist soil. This result is for a "quicker take" by the transplants, getting them off to a faster start. This contrasts with the irregular hand setting which often leaves the plant in relatively dry soil.

3. Fertilizer: As shown in the cost study a very large amount of fertilizer is used. Most growers apply 4 to 6 tons of poultry manure during land preparation. They then apply about 800# of calcium cyanamid for the control of pink root (Sclerotinia libertiana). These treatments supply from 350-400 pounds of nitrogen per acre. In addition another 2 to 3 tons of 8-8-4 are applied as a side dressing, supplying another 320 to 400 pounds of nitrogen. It seems this is a point where expenses could be cut without sacrificing quality or production.

4. Irrigation: Celery is a shallow-rooted crop with a very high water requirement. The exact amount for best growth varies with the soil type, winter temperatures and rainfall. The water requirement is particularly heavy during the last month of growth when it is often necessary to irrigate every third day.

5. Pest and Disease Control: Effective control of pink root (Sclerotinia libertiana) is obtained by a 700-1000 pound per acre application of calcium cyanamid 4 weeks before planting.

Spraying for control of blight and insects is done by most growers on a 10 to 14 day schedule. The amount of material applied per acre and time required per application depend on the size of the celery. Because of the frequent irrigation schedule, spraying machinery cannot be taken into the field. Two men usually carry an 8-row boom with the third man feeding the hose.