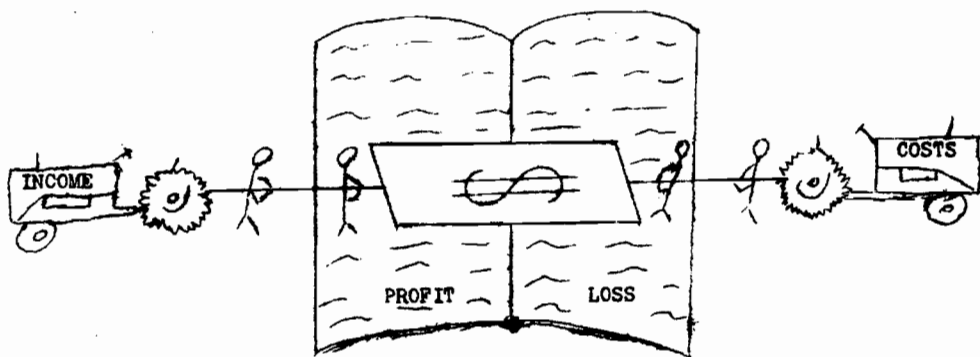


# ESTIMATED COST OF PRODUCTION --

DIRECT SEEDED TOMATOES  
WOODLAND AREA, YOLO COUNTY

1961



WHAT CAN YOU GROW CANNING TOMATOES FOR? WHAT DO YOU AND YOUR PENCIL FIGURE YOUR COSTS TO BE? SUBSTITUTED YOUR COSTS AND SEE WHAT YOU COME UP WITH. - DON'T FUDGE - YOU ARE ONLY KIDDING YOURSELF!!

LABOR - The hourly rate only is shown under the column for labor. Additional labor costs are shown under miscellaneous operating costs. In this way a clearer understanding may be had as to what the actual costs of labor are. The average rates used in this study are: tractor driver, \$1.25 per hour; irrigator, \$1.10 per hour; and \$1.00 per hour for general field labor. Tractor drivers also receive additional benefits amounting to approximately 35¢ per hour; irrigators receive 15¢ per hour. These benefits are in the form of housing, vacation, transportation, bonuses, etc. There is no exact figure for this.

EQUIPMENT - Besides the actual operating costs for fuel and repair, depreciation and interest on the investment in machinery should also be included as costs. Too many growers overlook the depreciation and investment costs. It is not until the equipment has to be replaced that they become aware that a charge should have been made. Taxes and insurance on the equipment are also cash costs that must be considered.

PICKING - The price per box is the average of three pickings. Perhaps the 16.4¢ is on the high side because of the field conditions encountered in 1960. High temperatures induced blossom drop. This in turn resulted in excessively large vines which made picking more difficult. Using the "scale of pay", adverse or difficult picking is compensated for by a higher rate per box. Since the majority of the growers used the "scale of pay" as a basis for determining a fair picking price in 1960, no set price per box per pick would be applicable. Every field is different. The seasonal average would come the closest to a fair estimate. Even this is subject to criticism or error, as every season is different. No one can predict what harvest conditions would be from year to year.

OWNER-OPERATOR OR SHARE RENTER - Either can figure his costs. The owner-operator would include land taxes, investment charges on the capital outlay of machinery, buildings, irrigation facilities and land as costs. The share rent operator on the other hand, can exclude land taxes and capital outlay investment charges on land, buildings and irrigation facilities. However, he cannot exclude his operating equipment. Depreciation and interest charges on his machinery must be included.

HIGHER OR LOWER YIELDS - Costs may also be estimated. Not as accurately, but should result in fair rough estimate. Growing cost per acre are the same whether you grow a 30 tons per acre or grow a 20 or 10 ton crop. Thus the growing costs per ton are less for a high yielding field. The less the yield, the higher the cost per ton for growing costs. Harvest costs per ton, on the other hand, remain relatively stable on the medium to high yield, but will be higher on the low yielding fields.

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This cost study is assumed to be part of an over-all farm operation. This assumption is necessary in order to develop realistic cost figures for equipment and investment costs. Originally this tomato cost sheet was developed as part of an over-all study made in 1958, using 1957 costs. The original cost sheet was reviewed and revised to bring the price and costs to those that are currently in effect. Costs and conditions are changing rapidly and those now in effect may not be so in a short period of time.

160 acres/tomatoes in a 1,000 acre operation following barley.  
Yield - 20 tons per acre.

Cash and Labor Costs per acre

	Hours/Acre	Labor	Fuel & Repairs Tractor	Implements	Material	Total
<u>Seed Bed Preparation</u>						
Disc 2 X	0.5	0.63	1.23	0.19	---	2.05
Landplane 2 X	0.6	0.75	1.49	0.34	---	2.58
Subsoil or chisel	1.3	1.63	3.21	0.20	---	5.04
Springtooth 2 X	0.4	0.50	0.99	0.19	---	1.68
Harrow and Roll 2 X	0.4	0.50	0.99	0.15	---	1.64
Moving equipment & servicing @ 10% of time	0.3	0.37	---	---	---	0.37
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4.38</b>	<b>7.91</b>	<b>1.07</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>13.36</b>
<u>Planting</u>						
Plant & Fertilize	0.3	0.38	0.36	0.03	---	0.77
Seed @ \$12.50/lb.	---	---	---	---	6.25	6.25
Rent tag-a-long @ 35¢/acre	---	---	---	---	0.35	0.35
Fertilizer- 10 gals of 8-25-0 @ 45¢/gal.	---	---	---	---	4.50	4.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>11.10</b>	<b>11.87</b>
<u>Growing Costs</u>						
Thinning	10.00	10.00	---	---	---	10.00
Hoeing 2.5 X	25.0	25.00	---	---	---	25.00
Cultivate & furrow 5 X	2.0	2.50	2.20	0.79	---	5.49
Ditch 5 X	0.2	0.25	0.50	0.04	---	0.79
Irrigate 6 X						
Labor	9.0	9.90	---	---	---	9.90
Water - 4 ac.ft. @ 4.75/ac.ft.	---	---	---	---	19.00	19.00
Equipment - siphone, canvas dams, shovels, etc.	---	---	---	---	0.25	0.25
Fertilize - Tractor	0.4	0.50	0.44	0.16	---	1.10
Rent tag-a-long @ 50¢/acre	---	---	---	---	.50	0.50
Fertilizer - 80 lbs nitrogen @ 8½¢/lb.	---	---	---	---	7.30	7.30
Insect control						
Seedling stage - contract - ground rig spray @ \$1.00/A + DDT	---	---	---	---	1.57	1.57
Worms & mites 3 X - air @ \$2.00/A plus	---	---	---	---	6.00	6.00
105 lbs Sevin + sulfur dust @ 25¢/lb.	---	---	---	---	26.25	26.25
Moving equipment service and set up @ 10% of time	1.2	1.31	---	---	---	1.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>49.46</b>	<b>3.14</b>	<b>0.99</b>	<b>60.87</b>	<b>114.46</b>

Miscellaneous operating costs

Pickup, phone, postage, roadways, etc., @ 7% of growing costs	10.48
Social Security, compensation insurance, transportation, etc., @ 10¢/hour	1.66
Housing, vacations, bonuses, etc., @ 25¢/hour	4.15
Additional costs for seasonal labor	
Camp charges @ 50¢/day/man (sharing compared with other growers)	0.85
Crew supervision @ \$12.50/day	0.50
Transportation to field @ 10¢/hour/man/day	3.50
Additional board @ 60¢/day	2.40
Recruit & transportation from center @ \$35.00/man (1 man/12 A)	2.91
Total	26.45

Taxes - Land 10.00

Total cost preharvest 176.14  
Preharvest cost per ton 8.81

Harvesting costs

Picking - 1st - 7 ton @ 42 boxes/ton = 294 boxes)	
2nd - 9 ton @ " " " = 378 boxes)	844 boxes @ 16.4¢/box
3rd - 4 ton @ 43 " " = 172 boxes)	138.42
Box rent @ 1¢/box (844 boxes)	8.44
Loading includes scattering empties @ 2¢/box	16.88
Inspection @ 17¢/ton	3.40
Labor supervisor @ 2¢/box	16.88
Swampers, checkers and clean up after harvest @ 3¢/box	25.32
Tomato Growers Association dues @ 6¢/ton	1.20
Recruiting and transportation of additional labor @ \$35.00/man	14.00
Bookkeeping - \$1.25/man/payroll (2 weeks)	1.10
Delivery of over-tolerance tomatoes (10% tomatoes - 5% contract) - grower receives \$1.00/ton for over-tolerance fruit.	10.69
Rejected loads - 1-3/4% of loads delivered	2.72
Total	239.05
	Cost per ton 11.95
Total - all growing costs	415.19
	Cost per ton 20.76

Cash overhead costs

Depreciation and interest on equipment 12.32

Investment costs

Land - \$7.00 @ 6%	42.00
Buildings - \$10/acre	0.60
Irrigation wells and equipment	4.40
	Overhead total 59.32
	Grand total 474.51
	Cost/ton 23.73

If a share rent grower

Growing, harvesting and cash overhead costs (less land taxes)	417.51
Share rent @ 20% on \$27.00/ton tomatoes	108.00
	Total 525.51
	Cost/ton 26.28