

Labor: Skilled \$2.25  
 Common 2.00  
 Irrigator 1.65

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE ONION SEED  
 Shasta-Lassen Counties  
 March, 1971

Production data: 800# clean seed

ON-IR-71-1

Operation	Hours per Acre	Cash and labor cost per acre				Total	Your Estimate Costs
		Labor	Fuel and Repairs	Materials, kind and quantity --	Cost		
<u>Cultural Costs, 1st Year</u>							
Plow	.5	1.13	1.78			2.91	
Fertilize	.3	.68	.32	300 lbs. 16-20 @4.00	12.00	13.00	
Disk & harrow 2 x	.6	1.35	2.08			3.43	
Pre-irrigate	.8	1.32		power to pump, 4 ac/ft @4.00	1.60	2.92	
List beds & shape	.3	.68	.84			1.52	
Roll beds	.2	.45	.18			.63	
Plant	.3	.68	.42	3 lbs. @4.00	12.00	13.10	
Weed spray	.25	.56	.48	Dacthal 12# @2.00	24.00	25.04	
Irrigate 8 x	4.8	7.92		power to pump, 1.5 ac/ft @4.00	6.00	13.92	
Cultivate	.28	.63	.38			1.01	
Total		15.40	6.48		55.60	77.48	
<u>Cultural Costs, 2nd Year</u>							
Cultivate 2 x	.56	1.26	.76			2.02	
Irrigate 8 x	4.8	7.92		power to pump, 2.5 ac/ft @4.00	10.00	17.92	
Hand weed	12.0	19.80				19.80	
TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS		44.38	7.24		65.60	117.22	
<u>Harvest Costs</u>							
Cutting heads	75.0	123.75				123.75	
Haul to tarps	3.0	6.75	3.00			9.75	
spread heads on tarps	12.0	19.80				19.80	
Turn heads 4 x	2.0	3.30				3.30	
Thresh							
skilled labor	2.5	5.62				5.62	
unskilled labor	2.5	4.12				4.12	
thresher	2.5	30.00				30.00	
tarp rent					12.00	12.00	
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS		193.34	3.00		12.00	208.34	

		Total	Your Estimate Costs
<u>Cash overhead</u>			
Misc., office, etc. and interest on operating capital (6% of above)		17.01	
Rent		80.00	
<b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</b>		97.01	
<b>TOTAL CASH COST</b>		422.57	
Management	5% of 800 @ .90 = \$720 x 5%	36.00	
<u>INVESTMENT</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Annual Cost</u>	
		<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Irrigation system	150.00	15.00	4.50
Equipment	227.67	22.40	6.82
Total		<u>37.40</u>	<u>11.32</u>
		48.72	

TOTAL COST PER ACRE

507.29

Cost per lb. @800 yield

.63.4¢

Direct seeded onions should be planted about August 1. The field should be pre-irrigated before planting. A sprinkler system is best for germinating the onion seeds. Several irrigations will be needed from August 1 to October 1.

Weed control is very essential for success. Summer fallow or pre-cropping with a cereal crop for weed clean up is strongly recommended.

Onion field must be about a mile from other onion fields. A supply of honey bees is needed to get good pollination of flowers.

Diseases and damaging insects have not been problems on onions in the Fall River Valley.

UC Cooperative Extension

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