

GROWING CABBAGE

Cabbage can be grown commercially in most parts of the San Bernardino and Yucaipa valleys. Planting seasons are February-March and July-early September. Most of our commercial cabbage is grown for the fall market. Plantings made late in September may be damaged by frost, some years.

Many varieties grow well here. The most popular varieties are Medium Cannonball, Danish Ballhead and Copenhagen Market. Some red varieties are planted occasionally.

Most cabbage is seeded in nursery rows and transplanted when about 10 inches high. Machines are used for transplanting. Spacing runs from 30 to 36 inches between rows and 12 to 24 inches between plants. Wider spacing makes bigger heads. Naturally, large varieties need more space than smaller types like Copenhagen.

Apply fertilizer early. About 150 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre seems to be enough fertilizer.

Irrigations should be frequent and light, for most cabbage roots are in the top two feet of soil. Irrigations every 3 to 5 days, depending on the weather, are enough.

The most common pests are aphids and cabbage worms. For aphids, spray or dust with parathion early. Use TEPP or malathion near harvest. Use 20-40 lbs of 1 to 2% dust, or 1/4 to 1/2 pound of spray per acre if you use parathion. With malathion, use 20 to 50 pounds per acre of 4 to 5% dust or 3/4 to 1 1/2 pounds per acre as a spray. For TEPP, use 1 to 2 pints per acre for sprays, or 30-40 pounds of 1 to 2% dust.

For worms, use 10-20% toxaphene, or 2% parathion, or 10% DDT dust at 20-35 pounds per acre, early. In mid-season, use the parathion. Near harvest, switch to 3/4% rotenone. These materials can be sprayed instead of dusted, if equivalent amounts per acre are used.

Cabbage may "bolt" (shoot to seed). Most bolting is due to having the plants too large during cold weather. Cabbage goes to seed if there are several weeks of temperatures below 50°. Two or three weeks of 40 degree weather is enough to cause bolting. Proper timing of planting will avoid most bolting troubles.

Harvest cabbage when heads are full sized and solid. Some varieties mature more uniformly, but most fields have to be gone over several times to complete the harvest.

Cabbage is harvested by cutting the stalks with a knife. Some growers pack into crates in the field. Others cut, throw the heads into a wagon, and haul into a packing shed. Pack into standard vegetable crates, with 25 to 36 heads to a crate. The 36 size seems most popular with the market.

Keep cabbage cool from harvest time until used. If stored, temperature should be near 32 and the humidity high.

WHAT DOES IT COST YOU TO GROW CABBAGE?
(Following another crop, with 360 crate per acre yield)

Item	Sample Costs		YOUR costs—figure here	
	Per Acre	Per Crate	Per Acre	Per Crate
Land Preparation				
Furrow out	1.50			
Pre-irrigate (incl. below)				
Disk	2.50			
Irrigate (incl. below)				
Harrow	1.50			
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION	<u>5.50</u>	.01½	_____	_____
Planting				
Pull plants - 12 man hours	12.00			
Plant 12 man hours, 4 hrs with tractor & planter	22.00			
TOTAL PLANTING	<u>34.00</u>	.09½	_____	_____
Culture Labor and Power				
Irrigate 20 times 13.3 hrs	13.30			
Cultivate 4 times	8.00			
Fertilize & cultivate once	3.00			
Hoe one time	4.00			
Dust 6 times 1/3 man hour, tractor & duster ea. time	4.26			
TOTAL CULTURE LABOR	<u>32.56</u>	.09	_____	_____
Materials				
Fertilizer 500# Am Sulfate and 30# ammonia gas	19.38			
Plants--15,000 @ \$2 M	30.00			
Water 37 acre inches @ \$1"	37.00			
Dust TEPP and DDT	50.60			
Crates 360 @ 10¢ net after rebate	36.00			
TOTAL MATERIALS	<u>152.98</u>	.42½	_____	_____
Harvesting and Packing				
57.6 man hours	57.60	.16	_____	_____
Cash Overhead				
Miscellaneous expense	12.51			
Taxes, 1/2 year	6.25			
Compensation insurance	1.00			
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD	<u>19.76</u>	.05½	_____	_____
Land rent or interest 1/2 year	37.50	.10		
Depreciation: figured in with other costs already				
TOTAL, ALL COSTS	<u>\$339.90</u>	.94	_____	_____