

## ICEBERG LETTUCE PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS 1987-1988

Mechanical operation at custom rates. Hand labor at \$5.50 per hour (\$4.30 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, transportation, supervision and fringe benefits).

Yield--500 50 lb. cartons per acre 90-120 days to maturity

OPERATION	CUSTOM RATE	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
<b>LAND PREPARATION</b>						
Stubble disc	17.75					17.75
Subsoil	27.00					27.00
Disc 1x	9.00					9.00
Landplane 2x	9.50					19.00
Border, cross check & break borders	15.00					15.00
Flood		Water 1/2 ac/ft	4.50	1	5.50	10.00
Fertilize	6.00	450# 11-52-0	53.00			59.00
Disc 2x	9.00					18.00
Triplane 1x	8.50					8.50
List	10.50					10.50
<b>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION</b>						<b>193.75</b>
<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>						
Incorporate herbicide	18.50	Herbicide	11.67			30.17
Sprinkler irrigate						130.00
Precision plant	13.50	Coated seed	70.00			83.50
Thin				10	55.00	55.00
Cultivate 3x	9.75					29.25
Fertilize & furrow out 2x	10.00	120# N @ .30	36.00			56.00
Water-run fertilizer		60# N @ .30	18.00			18.00
Hand weed 1x				12	66.00	66.00
Irrigate 6x		Water 3 1/2 ac/ft	31.50	7	38.50	70.00
Insect control 7x	4.90	Insecticides	115.00			149.30
Multipacker	6.00					6.00
<b>TOTAL GROWING PERIOD</b>						<b>693.22</b>
<b>GROWING PERIOD &amp; LAND PREPARATION COSTS</b>						<b>886.97</b>
Land Rent (net acres)						175.00
Cash Overhead-----		12% of preharvest costs & land rent				127.44
<b>TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS</b>						<b>1189.41</b>
<b>HARVEST</b>						
Custom harvest: cut, pack, and haul		500 cartons @	3.10 per carton			1550.00
<b>TOTAL ALL COSTS</b>						<b>2739.41</b>

PROJECTED INCOME ABOVE COSTS (PER ACRE)  
price/ 50 lb. carton

		PROJECTED INCOME ABOVE COSTS (PER ACRE)					Breakeven \$/carton
		4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	
Cartons	500	-739	-239	261	761	1261	5.48
	600	-649	-49	551	1151	1751	5.08
per	700	-559	141	841	1541	2241	4.80
acre	800	-469	331	1131	1931	2731	4.59
	900	-379	521	1421	2321	3221	4.42

ICEBERG LETTUCE CULTURE

1987-1988

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>YIELD/ACRE (CARTONS)</u>	<u>VALUE/ACRE</u>
1986	30554	434	\$ 2591
1985	29450	507	2911
1984	30062	534	2911
1983	38366	432	1847
1982	30288	504	4435

PLANTING DATES: Planting extends continually from mid-September to Mid-November. Early plantings are harvested in early December, while October plantings are harvested in January and February. Most of the lettuce is planted with pelleted seed and a precision planter. Seeds are planted 2-3 inches apart in-row on 42 inch beds. Cost of seed per acre varies with variety, coating, spacing, and seed enhancement treatments. A good range would be \$50.00-\$80.00/acre.

VARIETIES: The date of planting affects the variety grown since the season progresses from extreme heat to cool days and freezing nights, then back to moderately high temperatures in early spring. Varieties commonly planted are: "Excell", "Empire", "Vanmor", "Winterhaven", "Red Coach 74", and "Vanguard". Early plantings mature in about 90 days while later ones require 120 or more days.

SOILS: Silt loams and sandy soils are preferred. The lighter soils provide better drainage during cold weather and warm up more readily. Lettuce has a moderately low degree of salt tolerance. Excess salinity results in poor seed germination and small heads.

IRRIGATION: Most growers use sprinklers until the seedlings emerge to provide better stands with reduced seeding rates. Gated pipe is also used, especially near harvest. The irrigation labor costs used also include shovel work, grader work, and pipe setting.

FERTILIZERS: Four hundred fifty pounds of 11-52-0 are broadcast prior to listing. Nitrogen is sidedressed just after thinning and during later growth. Early, warm-season lettuce requires less N than that grown in January and February. About 150 pounds N are used early, while 200-250 pounds are applied to the cold weather crop.

PEST CONTROL: Herbicides are applied preplant incorporated or preemergence. Watch for crickets, cutworms, salt marsh caterpillars, and beet armyworms. Cabbage loopers can be especially serious after thinning. The most serious diseases are big vein, lettuce infectious yellows virus, bottom rot, and sclerotinia. Use mosaic-free seed 0:30000.

HARVESTING: Lettuce is field packed in cartons, trucked to vacuum coolers and shipped to market in refrigerated trucks. Field packing of film-wrapped heads is also common. Cooling and palletizing is paid by the receiver. Some companies bulk harvest lettuce in bins to be shredded for use by fast food outlets.