

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE LETTUCE IN MONTEREY COUNTY - 1978

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LT-CC-78

YIELD: Based on 625-47 lb. cartons per acre
 HARVEST: April through October
 PLANT: December 15 through August 7

LABOR COSTS/HR*

Cl. I Tractor Driver	5.85
Cl. II Tractor Driver	5.72
Irrigator	4.84
Other Labor	4.78

HOURLY TRACTOR COSTS

		Cash Costs	Depreciation	Interest
80 h.p. Crawler Diesel		7.71	3.81	2.29
50 h.p. Wheel Diesel		2.82	1.80	.90

Operation	Tractor Used	Hours/Acre	Labor	Fuel & Repairs	Contract and Materials	Total/Acre
CULTURAL						
Cover Crop & Manure					Proportion to Lettuce	35.00
Disc & Roll 3x	C-80	0.69	3.95	6.56		10.51
Chisel 2x	C-80	1.00	5.72	8.80		14.52
Landplane 2x	C-80	0.52	2.97	5.28		8.25
List & Preplant Fertilizer					Contract @ \$5.00/Ac 400# 12-12-12 @ \$37.00	42.00
Shape Beds & Roll	WD-50	0.25	1.43	0.86		2.29
Plant-4 Bed Planter	WD-50	0.50	2.93	1.98	1.5# mini-coated seed @ \$13.00/lb. Contract @ \$7.00/Ac. Materials \$9.00	24.41
Herbicide**					2 Ac Ft @ \$750/Ft. for power, \$2.00 booster pump	73.40
Irrigate 6x (1 pre, 2 Sprinkler, 3 Furrow)		10.00	48.40	8.00		66.92
Thin Fertilizer, 2x		14.00	66.92		Contract @ \$4.25/Ac 140# N. 60# P. @ \$50.00	58.50
Control 3x					Contract @ \$5.60/Ac Materials \$40.00	56.80
Cultivate 5x	WD-50	2.0	11.70	6.50		18.20
Weed		8.0	38.00			38.00
Miscellaneous		4.0	20.10	6.27		26.37

TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS 491.17

Overhead		
Business Costs: Office & Business Expense, etc., @ 8% Cultural Costs		39.31
Taxes: Equipment, except Tractors		3.50
Rent: \$350.00/Ac, 6 Months to Lettuce		175.00

TOTAL OVERHEAD COSTS 217.81

TOTAL CULTURAL AND OVERHEAD COSTS 708.98

Harvest		
Harvesting - Contract @ \$1.95 per Carton (includes selling cost)		1,218.75

TOTAL HARVEST COSTS 1,218.75

TOTAL CULTURAL, OVERHEAD AND HARVEST COSTS 1,927.73

ANNUAL COSTS	Investment	Per Acre	Depreciation	Interest-8%
50% Charged to Lettuce,	Buildings	50.00	2.50	2.00
Tractors are on an Hourly	Irrig. System	90.00	9.00	3.60
	Tractors	150.00	13.37	7.53
	Equipment	100.00	10.00	4.00
	Portable Irrig. Sys.	25.00	2.50	1.00
		\$415.00	\$37.37	\$18.13
	6 Months (Except Tractors and Equipment) to Lettuce			55.50

TOTAL COST PER ACRE 1,983.23

COST PER CARTON UC Cooperative Extension 3.17

SAMPLE COSTS OF PRODUCTION AT VARYING YIELDS

YIELD-CARTONS PER ACRE	425	525	625	725	825
Cost to Grow	708.98	708.98	708.98	708.98	708.98
Harvest Costs @ \$1.95/ctn.	828.75	1023.75	1218.75	1413.75	1608.75
Annual Costs	55.50	55.50	55.50	55.50	55.50
TOTAL COST PER ACRE	1593.23	1788.23	1983.23	2178.23	2373.23
Cost Per Carton	3.75	3.41	3.17	3.00	2.88

Management has not been included as a cost of production in this study. It may be as much as 5% of the farm value of the crop.

* Labor costs per hour include fringe benefits paid by the farmer. Social security, workmen's compensation, unemployment, health plan, vacation, pension plan, and paid holidays.

** Herbicide: Kerb® applied at planting in 6" bands over the seed line at the rate of 1½ lbs. a.i. per treated acre was the most commonly used material to control weeds in lettuce in 1978. Overhead or sprinkler irrigation is essential to the performance of this material.

For weeds not controlled by Kerb®, a Balan®-Chemhoe® combination is preferred. This is a preplant soil incorporated operation and results in uniformly shaped rows and an excellent seed bed. This operation costs about \$22.73 per acre. This includes \$11.50 (contract) for incorporation and \$11.23 for materials, 3 pints Balan® (1.5 lbs. a.i. per treated acre) and 3 quarts Chemhoe® (0.56 lbs. a.i. per treated acre). Either furrow or overhead irrigation can be followed with this combination.