

EGGPLANT PRODUCTION  
COACHELLA VALLEY - RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Planted acreage has ranged from 185 to 240 acres during the past five years. Packed out flats will range from 3000 to 4000 per acre.

SOILS: Well-drained soils will grow the best eggplant. Eggplant is grown on a wide range of soil types.

VARIETIES: New York Improved is the variety most commonly grown.

PLANTING: A summer and fall crop are normally grown. The summer crop is transplanted in February or March for harvest in May or June. The fall crop is transplanted in July or August for harvest in October. Picking continues into the winter months on both the fall and summer crop. The fall crop is brushed in December or January. Following a frost, the tops are cut back to almost the ground level for regrowth in the spring. Plants are thinned to two feet in the row on five foot row centers. Under good management, direct seeding at one pound per acre may be done instead of transplanting.

FERTILIZATION: Actual fertility requirements are not known for local conditions. Organic and inorganic fertilizers are applied alone and in combination both preplant and sidedressed during the growing season.

IRRIGATION: An adequate supply of moisture needs to be available immediately following transplanting. Later irrigations should be frequent enough to insure uniform growth.

BRUSHING: Frost protection shelters of either 30 or 36 inch Kraft paper and palm fronds are used for the fall crop. They are constructed on the north side of the row in order to admit the maximum amount of sunlight during the day and put in at an angle to intercept and reflect radiated heat at night.

PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL: Root-knot nematodes can be a serious problem. Tuber worms, aphids, leaf miners, corn earworm, and mites all are occasional pests. Contact the farm advisors' office for the latest recommendations on the control of insects and diseases.

HARVESTING: Picking is done by hand. The interval of picking may be from every day to several, depending on weather conditions. Grading and packing are done in the growers' sheds. Three grades are packed; Jumbo, Extra Fancy, and No. 2. A field may run 10 per cent Jumbo, 10 per cent No. 2, and the rest Extra Fancy.

MARKETING: Most of the crop is consigned to produce houses at terminal markets (Los Angeles or San Francisco area).

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IN  
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SAMPLE COSTS OF PRODUCTION

Based on a yield of 3500 flats per acre.

	LABOR & EQUIP- MENT COST/Acre	MATERIALS KIND & COST/Acre	TOTAL COST/Acre
Plow-1x	\$ 6.00		\$ 6.00
Disc-2x	5.00		5.00
Float-2x	5.50		5.50
Fertilize	14.00	Organic \$49.00 fertilizer	63.00
Spring tooth-2x	4.00		4.00
Furrow out	2.00		2.00
Pre-irrigate	2.00	.75 ac ft 1.69 water	3.69
Furrow out	2.00		2.00
Plant transplants	5.00	Plants 87.12	92.12
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION AND PLANTING			\$ 183.31
Irrigation	\$ 15.75	7 ac ft \$15.75 water	\$ 31.50
Fertilize & cultivate	12.00	Inorganic & organic 472.00	484.00
Weed control-hand	15.00		15.00
Pest control-20x	42.00	Insecticide 350.00	392.00
Put up shelters	54.45	Lath, wire, paper & posts 197.18	251.63
Remove shelters	30.00		30.00
TOTAL GROWING PERIOD			\$1204.13
TOTAL PREHARVEST COST			\$1387.44
*Pick, haul, pack, load	\$875.00	Used lugs 875.00 3500 @.25	\$1750.00
TOTAL HARVEST COST			\$1750.00
General expense			\$ 15.00
Taxes			20.00
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD			\$ 35.00
TOTAL CASH COSTS			\$3172.44
Interest, depreciation			
Land, buildings, equipment, irrigation-drainage			\$ 127.65
TOTAL NON-CASH OVERHEAD			\$ 127.65
TOTAL ALL COSTS			\$3300.09
TOTAL COST PER FLAT			\$ .94

\*If sold on consignment, add commission and freight charges to get total cost.

PRICES: F O B prices per flat have ranged from an average of \$1.40 to \$1.88 during the past five years.

Agricultural Extension Service, Room 7, Post Office Building, Riverside, Calif.