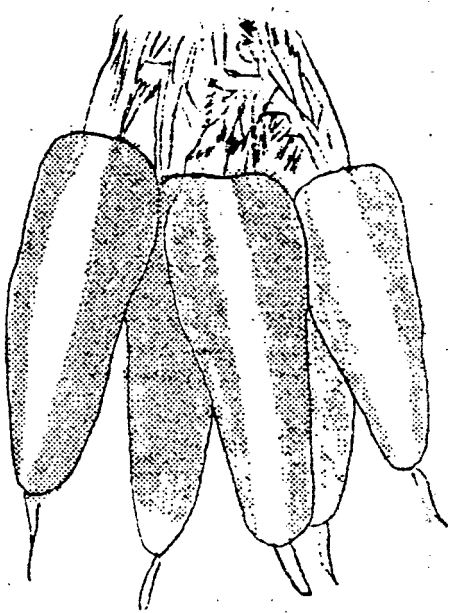


carrots
sample costs
and
production



Cooperative Extension
University of California
Imperial County
Court House, El Centro

Cost Data Sheet No. 14

CARROTS--PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS--1982-1983

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

Yield--600 54-lb. Master poly containers/ac. (16.2 tons). 75-80 days to maturity.

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR*		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
LAND PREPARATION						
Subsoil	24.00					\$ 24.00
Disc 2x	8.00					16.00
Border, cross check & break borders	12.00					12.00
Flood		Water $\frac{3}{4}$ ac/ft	5.63	1	5.50	11.13
Fertilize	6.00	400# 11-48-0	52.00			58.00
Disc 2x	8.00					16.00
Triplane 2x	8.50					17.00
Fumigation	10.00	Fumigant	45.00			55.00
List	10.00					10.00
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						\$ 219.13

GROWING PERIOD

Plant	12.00	Seed 2# @ 6.00	12.00			\$ 24.00
Sprinkler irrigate						120.00
Weed control 2x	5.00	Herbicides-Lorox®	11.00			16.00
	10.00	Treflan®	3.50			13.50
Cultivate 2x	10.00					20.00
Spike 2x	7.50					15.00
Fertilize & furrow out 2x	10.00	150# N @ 34¢	51.00			61.00
Irrigate 7x		Water $5\frac{3}{4}$ ac/ft	43.13	9	49.50	92.63
Pest control 1x	4.00	Insecticides	10.00			14.00
Disc 1x	8.00					8.00
GROWING PERIOD						\$ 384.13

GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREPARATION COSTS

\$ 603.26

Land Rent (net acres)

200.00

Cash Overhead--12% of preharvest costs & land rent

96.39

TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS

\$ 899.65

HARVEST COSTS

Harvest by machine, haul, pack, cool, and sell 600 sacks containing forty-eight 1 1/8 lb. cello bags, contract rate at \$4.25/sack.

\$2550.00

TOTAL ALL COSTS

\$3449.65

Cost per 54-lb. Master poly containers = \$5.75 @ 600 sacks/ac
Cost per 54-lb. Master poly containers = \$5.54 @ 700 sacks/ac

* Includes shovel labor, pipe setting and miscellaneous tractor work.

YEAR	ACRES	YIELD/ACRE (TONS)	VALUE/TON
1977	4300	16.8	\$ 190
1978	6360	16.5	114
1979	6962	15.6	130
1980	6206	18.0	118
1981	5912	19.1	142

PLANTING DATES: Early carrots are planted the last week in August and early September. Later maturing carrots are planted in October and early November. Carrot beds are normally planted with six rows of carrots on 42" beds. Three rows are placed on each bed shoulder. Rows are usually 1/2" apart. The standard practice is to plant noncoated seed with a Planet Jr.

VARIETIES: Long Imperator 58 is the main variety grown. Some hybrid varieties are also being used. Cost of hybrid seed is about \$40 per pound. Florida and Arizona compete in our carrot markets. Carrots are seeded at a rate of 750,000 to 1,000,000 live seeds per acre. Germination usually runs 80% and seed counts may be 175,000 - 400,000 per pound. The seeding rate per acre is calculated accordingly.

SOILS

Carrots can be grown on many of the soil types in the county. Best root development is obtained in the lighter soils. Carrots should not be grown on stratified soils. If soils are too heavy, deformed roots will result. Roots will not develop good color if the soil stays too wet.

IRRIGATION

Carrots are sprinkler irrigated for stand establishment. Carrots germinate slowly, therefore, the beds must be kept moist to prevent crusting. Sprinklers also reduce the salinity in the seed beds and less salt will be present to be concentrated in the beds when converting to furrow irrigation. Sprinkler irrigation costs include rent, in-and-out labor, maintenance and sprinkler operation.

FERTILIZERS

Previous crop history will help in determining fertilizer requirements. Phosphate is applied before listing at rates of 150-200 pounds per acre.

Two hundred pounds of nitrogen are usually ample. Preplant fertilizer should be disced into the soil before listing to prevent forking.

WEED CONTROL

Both preplant and layby herbicides are used. Consult your weed control farm advisor for additional information.

PESTS AND DISEASES

Crickets, grasshoppers, and cutworms can be a problem when seedlings emerge. Later, aphids and spider mites may attack the leaves. Cutworms and aphids may attack crowns.

Nematodes can be controlled by fumigation and damping-off by fungi by seed treatment. Root rot is usually absent under good cultural practices.

HARVESTING

Both hand and machine harvesting are practiced. Harvesting takes place from December to June. Carrots are shipped with tops, in cello paks or topped loose. Prices vary according to container size. Two sizes of carrots are packed including jumbos

and standards. Jumbos are cheaper to pack but the cost data does not allow for this reduction to be itemized.

INCOME ABOVE ALL COSTS PER ACRE

	Price Per Master Poly Sack				
	\$4.50	5.00	5.50	6.00	6.50
550	-763	-488	-213	+ 62	+337
600	-750	-450	-150	+150	+450
650	-737	-412	- 87	+238	+563
700	-725	-375	- 25	+325	+675
750	-713	-388	+ 37	+412	+787

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To simplify our information, it is sometimes necessary to use trade names of products or equipment. No endorsement of named products is intended nor is criticism implied of similar products which are not mentioned.

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