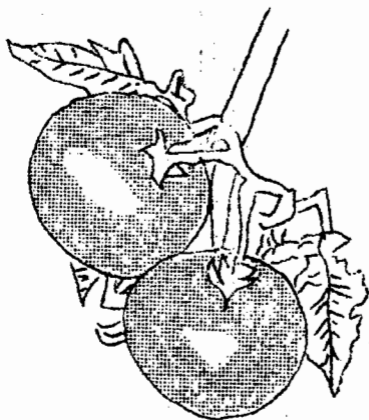


tomatoes  
mature green  
sample costs  
and  
production



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

Cost Data Sheet No. 17

MATURE GREEN TOMATOES, BUSH GROWN--PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS--1982-1983

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

Yield--12.0 tons or 960 25-lb. cartons. Growing period--130 days.

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR*		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
<b>LAND PREPARATION</b>						
Subsoil	24.00					\$ 24.00
Disc 2x	8.00					16.00
Landplane 1x	9.50					9.50
Border, cross check & break borders	12.00					12.00
Flood		Water $\frac{3}{4}$ ac ft	5.60	1	5.50*	11.10
Fertilizer	6.00	400# 11-48-0	52.00			
	10.00	20 gals. 10-34-0	32.00			100.00
Disc 2x	8.00					16.00
Float	7.50					7.50
Laser plane	15.00					15.00
List beds	10.00					10.00
<b>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION</b>						<b>\$ 221.10</b>

**GROWING PERIOD**

Plant & shape beds	14.50	Seed 1# coated	100.00			\$ 114.50
Weed control	5.50	Herbicide	13.00			18.50
Sprinkler	65.00	Water	4.00	10	55.00	124.00
Thin 2x				32	176.00	176.00
Cultivate 3x	13.50					40.50
Fertilize 2x	9.00	230# N Urea	66.25			84.25
Hand weed 2x				18	99.00	99.00
Layby herbicide	5.50	Herbicide	9.50			15.00
Irrigate 12x		Water 7 ac ft	52.50	8	44.00*	96.50
Insect control 14x	4.25	Insecticides	150.00			209.50
Disc 2x	8.00					16.00
<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>						<b>\$ 993.75</b>

**GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREPARATION COSTS**

Land Rent (net acres)						225.00
Cash Overhead--12% of preharvest costs & land rent						172.78
<b>TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS</b>						<b>\$ 1612.63</b>

**HARVEST**

Contract @ \$4.50 per 25# box, including picking, hauling, cooling, packing, and selling.						\$ 4320.00
<b>TOTAL ALL COSTS</b>						<b>\$ 5932.63</b>

Cost per carton @ 12 tons = \$6.18 or 494.34/ton

\* Include shovel labor, pipe setting, miscellaneous tractor work.

YEAR	ACRES	YIELD/ACRE (TONS)	VALUE/TON <sup>1/</sup>
1977	2385	6.29	\$ 284.00
1978	1900	8.80	416.97
1979	1980	7.60	476.56
1980	1270	10.97	497.77
1981	800	11.33	512.43

**PLANTING DATES:** Bush tomatoes are planted from early January through February 15 for June harvest. A small acreage may also be seeded in July or August for harvest in winter.

**VARIETIES:** Hybrids Sunlight, Jackpot, Blazer, Duke and open-pollinated Castlemart are the principal varieties grown. However, other varieties resistant to Fusarium, Verticillium and nematodes are planted on small acreages.

**SOILS:** Medium to heavy soils that are well drained are best. Such soils maintain their moisture content longer and more uniformly than sandy soils. Fields should be low in salinity.

<sup>1/</sup> Includes stake tomatoes.

## IRRIGATION

Moisture should be maintained as uniformly as possible. Large fluctuations in soil moisture or water stress conditions can be detrimental to plant and fruit development. Sprinklers are used to germinate the seed. They are removed following plant emergence.

## FERTILIZERS

Before listing, 30-50 pounds nitrogen and 150-250 pounds phosphate are broadcast. Phosphate material may be also injected into the bed on both sides of the row in addition to the broadcast application. Banding of reduced fertilizer rates under and on both sides of the seed row may be also practiced with no previous broadcast application. After thinning, 150-250 pounds of N are sidedressed and water run depending on the previous crop. Excess nitrogen results in delayed and uneven maturity.

### INCOME ABOVE ALL COSTS Price Per Carton (25 lb.)

Yield Cartons Per Acre	INCOME ABOVE ALL COSTS		
	\$ 5.50	6.50	7.50
800	-813	- 13	+ 787
900	-713	+187	+1087
1000	-613	+387	+1387
1100	-513	+587	+1687

## PESTS AND DISEASES

The primary insect problems are tomato fruit worms, armyworms, tobacco budworms, thrips, aphids, pinworms, stink bugs and cutworms. Curly top virus, fusarium wilt, and alfalfa mosaic are the chief diseases. Fumigation is required for root knot infested fields. If fumigation is required, add \$50.00 to costs.

## HARVESTING

Most of the fruit is picked in the mature green stage, placed in field trailers or bins and hauled to shed for washing, cooling and packing.

## WEED CONTROL

A preemergence and layby application are applied. Consult your farm advisor in weed control for a list of registered and adapted materials.

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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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