

Santa Barbara County - 1965

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Carrot acreage has steadily decreased in Santa Barbara County for the last several years. However, the farm price has continually increased so the total value change has not been as great as the acreage figure might indicate. California ranks as the number one producer of carrots. In 1963, Santa Barbara County was the fifth most important carrot county in the state, and accounted for approximately 1/20 of the total value. Within the county, carrots ranked as the sixth largest vegetable crop by acreage and fifth by value in 1963.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Harvested Acreage</u>	<u>Average Yield (Tons/Ac.)</u>	<u>Total Production (Tons)</u>	<u>Farm Price (Per Ton)</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
1959	2,048	13.80	28,256	\$ 38	\$1,077,357
1960	1,190	16.5	19,600	44	870,000
1961	1,450	22.3	32,330	39	1,272,500
1962	1,559	20.0	31,208	50	1,560,000
1963	980	18.4	18,000	52	936,000

CHARACTERISTICS OF CARROT FARM

Carrots are generally included as one of several vegetables a farmer will produce. Farmers plant carrots in many locations in the county, but prefer to plant them in their sandier or lighter fields. Although the production in the Santa Maria Valley is greater, the Lompoc Valley also produces a sizable portion of the total.

Soil, Water, Climate. Carrots can be grown on many of the soil types in the county. Best root development is obtained in the lighter soils. Crop history on various soils will determine the type of land preparation the grower follows. The well water used in irrigation is of good quality for carrots; however, as in other crops, salinity can build up and become a problem, especially in germination. Carrots grow well in all vegetable areas of the county.

MANAGEMENT FACTORS

Cultural. Carrots have been planted the year around, however, the usual "season" begins in December. Planting then continues until September. Harvest will usually start in June and continue until the following February. Average yields run close to 20 tons per acre.

Land preparation. Disking, plowing, harrowing, etc., requires approximately four hours. Usually two pounds of seed are used per acre. Irrigations number at least six, with fluctuations according to time of year. Weed oil is applied for weed control at a usual contract price of \$16 per acre. The fertilizer practices vary greatly, but close to 100 pounds nitrogen is applied with approximately 50 pounds each of phosphorus and potash. Little hoeing is needed, except to clean up the field. Pest control is light. However, a problem of scab on carrots now greatly concerns the growers and is resulting in reduced yield and smaller acreages. There is no practical control known for this trouble.

Labor. In carrot production the month of July is the top month for labor requirements. The requirement tapers off slightly in August, but continues high until January. This demand coincides with the usual harvest "season".

## VEGETABLES - Carrots

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Harvesting and Marketing. Harvesting consists of "lifting" the carrots, topping by hand labor, loading on to trailers and hauling to packing sheds. These costs are part of the growing contract and so are part of the packing shed costs. The grower may be paid on a pack-out basis or is paid an outright field sum which depends on the day-to-day market price.

## OUTLOOK

Mechanization is possible to a greater extent in harvesting, but requires more cleaning, grading, etc. on the part of the processor and shipper. This would naturally increase costs. It is expected that a wage raise will have little or no effect on the amount of acreage. Families and other locals usually provide the labor. Carrots are not a critical harvest crop as far as time. Normally we expect quite a fluctuation in acreage from year-to-year. Conditions such as hot spells, frosts, labor availability, etc. in other producing areas are reflected in the demand for local carrots.

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE CARROTS

Based on 300 acres. Yield 15 ton. Tractor driver \$1.65; Irrigator 1.40; Other labor 1.25.

Operation	Hours per Acre	Labor	Fuel and Repairs	Materials & Other Cash	Total
<b>Cultural</b>					
Land preparation	3.0	\$ 5.00	\$ 8.00		\$ 13.00
Plant	1.0	1.65	1.35	Seed \$6.00	9.00
Irrigate 6 times	12.0	16.80	2.20	Water 2.4' \$5.00	31.00
Cultivate 4 times	4.0	6.70	5.30		12.00
Weed control				Oil \$16.00 Application \$4.00	20.00
Fertilize				Material \$30.00 Applic. \$4.00	34.00
Hoe	4.8	6.00			6.00
Pest control				Spray \$5.00 Application \$2.00	7.00
Miscellaneous	8.0	6.00	3.00		9.00
<b>Total Cultural</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>42.15</b>	<b>19.85</b>		<b>79.00</b>
<b>Harvest--Sold in field</b>					
Misc. overhead					8.30
Rent 1/2 year					42.50
<b>Total cash cost</b>					<b>191.80</b>
Management 5% of 15 ton @ \$20 (\$300)					15.00
			<u>Annual Cost</u>		
<u>Investment</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Interest</u>		
Buildings	80.00	4.00	2.40		
Irrigation System	20.00	1.00	.60		
Equipment	240.00	24.00	7.20		
<b>Total</b>	<b>340.00</b>	<b>29.00</b>	<b>10.20</b>		<b>39.20</b>
<b>Total Cost Per Acre</b>					<b>246.00</b>
<b>Cost Per Ton @ 15 ton Yield</b>					<b>16.40</b>

CARROTS - CASH FLOW  
Planted the Year Around

	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Land Preparation	13.00								13.00
Plant		9.00							9.00
Irrigate 6 x		10.30	5.20	10.30	5.20				31.00
Cultivate 4 x		3.00		6.00	3.00				12.00
Weed Control			20.00						20.00
Fertilize			34.00						34.00
Hoe				6.00					6.00
Pest Control					7.00				7.00
Miscellaneous	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50			9.00
Harvest (Sold in Field)									
Misc. Overhead	1.50	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.60			8.30
Rent 1/2 year	42.50								42.50
<b>Total Cash Cost</b>	<b>58.50</b>	<b>25.10</b>	<b>62.00</b>	<b>25.10</b>	<b>18.00</b>	<b>3.10</b>			<b>191.80</b>
<b>Income</b>								<b>300.00</b>	<b>300.00</b>
<b>Accumulated Cash Costs</b>	<b>58.50</b>	<b>83.60</b>	<b>145.60</b>	<b>170.70</b>	<b>188.70</b>	<b>191.80</b>	<b>191.80</b>	<b>-108.20</b>	<b>-108.20</b>