

SPRING CANTALOUPE--PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS--1980

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--175 crates per acre (7.5 tons). 120 days to maturity.

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR*		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre	YOUR COSTS
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars		
LAND PREPARATION							
Subsoil	18.00					\$ 18.00	_____
Disc 2x	6.50					13.00	_____
Border, cross check & break borders	11.50					11.50	_____
Flood		Water 3/4 ac/ft	3.94	1	5.50	9.44	_____
Fertilize	4.00	400# 11-48-0	58.00			62.00	_____
List and rerun beds	17.00					17.00	_____
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						\$ 130.94	_____
GROWING PERIOD							
Plant & shape beds	11.00	Seed 2# @5.00/#	10.00			\$ 21.00	_____
Encap mulch	5.50		36.50			42.00	_____
Reshape beds	14.00					14.00	_____
Weed Control	6.00	Herbicide	9.00			15.00	_____
Pollination		Hives 1 1/2 @13.00	19.50			19.50	_____
Thin				6	33.00	33.00	_____
Cultivate 2x	11.00					22.00	_____
Fertilize & furrow out 1x	8.50	100# N @32¢	32.00			40.50	_____
Weed 1x				5	27.50	27.50	_____
Irrigate 5x		Water 3 3/4 ac/ft	19.69	8	44.00	63.69	_____
Pest Control 2x	3.65	Pesticides, Fungicides	20.00			27.30	_____
TOTAL GROWING PERIOD						\$ 325.49	_____
GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREPARATION COSTS						\$ 456.43	_____
Land Rent (new lease)						175.00	_____
Cash Overhead--10% of preharvest costs & land rent						63.14	_____
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS						\$ 694.57	_____
HARVEST							
Pick, haul, pack & crate 175 crates @6.00						\$1050.00	_____
TOTAL ALL COSTS						\$1744.57	_____

Cost per crate = \$9.97 @ 175 crates/Ac
Cost per crate = \$9.47 @ 200 crates/Ac

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

INCOME ABOVE ALL COSTS PER ACRE
Price Per Crate

Crates Per Acre	Price Per Crate				
	\$ 8.00	9.00	10.00	11.00	12.00
150	- 394	- 244	- 94	+ 56	+ 206
175	- 344	- 169	+ 6	+ 181	+ 356
200	- 294	- 94	+ 106	+ 306	+ 506
225	- 244	- 19	+ 206	+ 431	+ 656
250	- 194	+ 56	+ 306	+ 556	+ 806

Imperial
BKN #127

SPRING CANTALOUPE CULTURE

1980

<u>YEAR*</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>YIELD/ACRE (TONS)</u>	<u>VALUE/TON</u>
1975	7400	5.32	\$280
1976	8850	6.37	249
1977	9440	6.56	214
1978	12370	8.80	207
1979	9788	6.84	266

PLANTING DATES: Open grown melons are planted from mid-January through mid-March. Harvesting begins in June and continues to early July.

VARIETIES: Nearly all of the acreage is planted to Topmark. PMR 45's are grown on small acreages in the fall. New hybrid varieties are currently being evaluated, such as Topscore.

SOILS: Well-drained soils are preferred. Sandy or silt loams are sometimes selected for the earliest crop. Heavier soils are preferred for most of the acreage because of their greater water holding capacity which slows the onset of vine collapse.

IRRIGATION: After planting, the beds are subbed past the seedline. Following emergence, water is often withheld for several weeks. This is done to maintain soil warmth and promote early production. The last irrigation is scheduled one week prior to harvest. During this time, excessive moisture may increase ground spotting, rotted and soft fruit.

FERTILIZERS: 200 pounds of P₂O₅ are often applied before listing. Up to 150 pounds of nitrogen are later sidedressed. Most growers inject the phosphorus into the listed beds at planting as 10-34-0 or phosphoric acid.

POLLINATION: At least one hive of bees per acre is recommended and 1 1/2 hives are better. The bees should be distributed on at least two sides of a 40 acre field. Recent studies have indicated that yields are increased with heavy bee saturation.

PESTS AND DISEASES: Cantaloupes are subject to a number of problems including nematode, cutworms, aphids, mites, loopers, leafhoppers, leafminers, ground beetles, crickets, mosaic virus and powdery mildew. Consult your farm advisor for pest control information.

HARVESTING: Spring melons are harvested from May to July. The fruit are hand picked at the full slip stage. After hauling to a shed, they are sorted and graded in wood crates holding 23, 27, 36, 45 or 54 melons. Cartons may be used instead of the standard wooden crates packing 9, 12, 18 or 23 melons. The melons are hydrocooled or forced-air cooled prior to shipment. Some harvesting is done with belt loading machines and mechanical pickup devices.

SPECIAL PRACTICES: Root knot nematodes can cause serious damage to melons if not controlled by soil fumigation. The normal charges for fumigation are \$5.50 for application and \$35.50 for fumigant. Soil samples may be taken to help detect these soil micro-organisms.

*Spring and Fall acres combined.