

Let's Talk About...

Canning Tomato Production

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THE INDUSTRY - Canning tomatoes are one of Southern Alameda County's major vegetable crops. In 1961, nearly 3,000 acres were harvested; basically all on irrigated soils. Twelve major processors are located in or near the production area. A variety of tomato products are prepared. These are sold on markets throughout the United States.

Most growers will use canning tomatoes as a part of a two year crop rotation program; some produce them on the same soils each year. Transplants are normally planted during April and May. Harvest begins early in September and will continue through the month of October. Yields range between 10 and 25 tons per acre.

Major trends in this industry are directed toward the operation of larger acreages, the development and use of disease resistant varieties, and as complete mechanization of production and harvesting as is possible.

INPUTS & COSTS

- Shown on the reverse side of this sheet are sample inputs and costs. These statistics summarize the economic information developed on the production of canning tomatoes in the Fremont-Union City area. Enterprises represented are irrigated, 100 acre, combination row-crop operations that regularly produce yields above the county average.

The labor costs listed are calculated at the following hourly rates: tractor and truck driving, \$1.50; irrigation labor, \$1.25; other labor, \$1.10; 40 h.p. crawler tractor, \$1.90; 25 h.p. wheel tractor, \$1.05; 2 ton truck, \$1.50. These equipment rates are for cash costs only on fuel, oil, repairs, licenses, and insurance.

Further projection of this sample input and cost information gives the following production and marketing costs for varying yields.

Cost Measurement	Unit	Yield - Tons per Acre				
		9.5	13.0	16.5	20.0	23.5
Cash Production & Marketing Costs	Acre	\$319.06	354.55	388.57	416.92	452.20
Cash Production & Marketing Costs	Ton	32.72	27.27	23.55	20.85	19.24
Depreciation & Interest on Investment	Ton	12.50	9.14	7.20	5.94	5.05
Total Costs except Management	Ton	45.22	36.41	30.75	26.79	24.29

* Average value for items that depreciate is estimated at half of the original cost, since over useful life they decline from cost to zero.

