

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--600 50# sacks per acre. (15 tons). 150+ days to maturity.

OPERATION	Custom	MATERIALS	Cost	HAND LABOR*		SAMPLE COSTS	YOUR COSTS
	Rate			Type	Hours		
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 ft/Ac	3.94	1	5.50	9.44	
Fertilize	4.00	400# 11-48-0	58.00			62.00	
Disc 2x	6.50					13.00	
Triplane 2x	6.50					13.00	
List	7.25					7.25	
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						\$ 147.19	
GROWING PERIOD							
Precision plant	10.00	Seed 2# plus coating	65.00			\$ 75.00	
Herbicide 1x	6.00	Dacthal®	25.60			31.60	
Sprinkler Irrigate						110.00	
Cultivate 3x	7.50					22.50	
Fertilize & furrow out 2 x	7.50	200# N @32¢	64.00			79.00	
Weed 1x				9	49.50	49.50	
Irrigate 12x		Water 4 1/2 ac/ft	23.63	13	71.50	95.13	
Pest Control 5x	3.65	Pesticides	30.00			48.25	
GROWING PERIOD						\$ 510.98	
GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREPARATION COSTS						\$ 658.17	
Land Rent (new lease)						175.00	
Cash Overhead--10% of preharvest costs & land rent						83.32	
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS						\$ 916.49	
HARVEST COSTS							
Dig, top, haul, grade, sack, selling commission for 600 sacks @2.75 per 50-lb sack						\$1650.00	
TOTAL ALL COSTS						\$2566.49	

Cost per sack = \$4.27 @ 600 sacks/Ac
Cost per sack = \$3.90 @ 800 sacks/Ac

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

INCOME ABOVE ALL COSTS PER ACRE

Price Per Sack

Sacks Per Acre	Price Per Sack				
	\$ 3.50	4.00	4.50	5.00	5.50
600	- 466	- 166	+ 134	+ 434	+ 734
700	- 391	- 41	+ 309	+ 659	+ 1009
800	- 316	+ 84	+ 484	+ 884	+ 1284
900	- 241	+ 209	+ 659	+ 1109	+ 1559
1000	- 166	+ 334	+ 834	+ 1334	+ 1834

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DRY ONIONS (MARKET) CULTURE

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>YIELD/ACRE (TONS)</u>	<u>VALUE/TON</u>
1975	1500	15.33	\$ 196
1976	1790	10.45	94
1977	1860	13.30	189
1978	1950	10.39	137
1979	2289	10.86	174

PLANTING: Most acreage is direct seeded from mid-October to mid-November. Forty-two inch beds with 4 to 6 lines are used. Some plantings have been made with three lines on narrow beds. Stubble discing at \$14/A may be used to chop coarse stalks for better decomposition.

VARIETIES: Onions are sensitive to day length and temperature. Only the early maturing, short day types are grown. The most popular types are Yellow Granex, Texas Early Grano 502, White Granex, Early Premium and Dessex. Seed costs may vary from \$16.00 - \$40.00 per pound (or higher) depending upon variety and season. Texas Grano and other ringer types are produced for the fried onion ring market. Texas is the major competing state.

WEED CONTROL: Herbicides are commonly applied pre-emergence. Consult your farm advisor for latest recommendations. Some postplant applications are made with corresponding additional costs.

SOILS: Medium-textured sandy loams are the most desirable. Onions are shallow rooted and need a friable soil which retains moisture especially after cultivation. Onions should never be stressed for water once the bulbs start to enlarge or splitting may result. Avoid salty, hard, or weed-infested soils.

IRRIGATION: Until two or three weeks before intended harvest, onions should never suffer for lack of water. Stressing onions for water before maturity may cause splitting. Weather and soil conditions determine the number of irrigations (usually 7-12x). Irrigation costs include shovel work, pipe setting and motor grading.

FERTILIZER: Generally, between 200 and 250 lbs. of actual nitrogen per acre and 144 and 200 lbs. of P₂O₅ are applied. All P₂O₅ and 1/3 of the nitrogen are usually broadcast before listing followed by two sidedressings of nitrogen.

PESTS AND DISEASES: Mites, thrips, armyworms, leafminers, maggots, downy mildew and nematodes may be problems. Pink root is a soil-borne disease affecting onions; resistant varieties are available.

HARVESTING: Harvesting takes place from late March through May after 25% of the tops have fallen over. Bulbs are dug, hand topped and sacked in burlap for 3-5 days to cure. The sacks are then dumped into bulk trucks and hauled to sheds for grading, re-sacking, loading and shipping. Some growers partially cure onions on ventilated docks prior to shipment. Some growers have started using mechanical harvesting to reduce production costs. The equipment is similar to that used in dehydrator onions with a topper, digger and sorter. The major difference is that the sorter contains high speed whirling blades that trim roots and excess tops prior to sacking.