



IMPERIAL COUNTY

**ICEBERG LETTUCE
PROJECTED PRODUCTION
COSTS 1989 - 1990**

Iceberg Lettuce Projected Production Costs 1989-1990

Mechanical operation at custom rates. Hand labor at \$5.75 per hour (\$4.50 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, transportation, supervision and fringe benefits).
Yield--500 50 lb. cartons per acre 90-120 days to maturity.

OPERATION	CUSTOM RATE	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
LAND PREPARATION						
Stubble disc	18.25					18.25
Subsoil	29.25					29.25
Disc 1x	9.50					9.50
Landplane 2x	10.00					20.00
Border, cross check & break borders	15.00					15.00
Flood		Water 1/2 ac/ft	5.50	1	5.75	11.25
Fertilize	6.00	450# 11-52-0	61.00			67.00
Disc 2x	9.50					19.00
Triplane 1x	8.75					8.75
List	11.50					11.50
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						209.50
GROWING PERIOD						
Sprinkler irrigate						135.00
Precision plant	14.50	Coated seed	70.00			84.50
Thin				10	57.50	57.50
Incorporate herbicide	18.50	Herbicide	11.67			30.17
Cultivate 3x	10.75					32.25
Fertilize & furrow out 2x	10.50	120# N @ .31	37.20			58.20
Water-run fertilizer		60# N @ .31	18.60			18.60
Hand weed 1x				12	69.00	69.00
Irrigate 6x		Water 3 1/2 ac/ft	38.50	7	40.25	78.75
Insect control 7x	5.00	Insecticides	72.00			107.00
Disc out beds	9.50					9.50
TOTAL GROWING PERIOD						680.47
GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREPARATION COSTS						889.97
Land Rent (net acres)						200.00
Cash Overhead-----		12% of preharvest costs & land rent				130.80
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS						1220.77
HARVEST						
Custom harvest: cut, pack, haul and sell		500 cartons @	3.40 per carton			1700.00
TOTAL ALL COSTS						2920.77

PROJECTED INCOME ABOVE COSTS (PER ACRE)
price/ 50 lb. carton

		Breakeven					\$/carton
		4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	
	500	-921	-421	79	579	1079	5.84
Cartons	600	-861	-261	339	939	1539	5.43
per	700	-801	-101	599	1299	1999	5.14
acre	800	-741	59	859	1659	2459	4.93
	900	-681	219	1119	2019	2919	4.76

ICEBERG LETTUCE CULTURE
1989-1990

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>YIELD/ACRE (CARTONS)</u>	<u>VALUE/ACRE</u>
1988	31,144	473	\$ 6396
1987	28,986	464	2845
1986	30,554	434	2591
1985	29,450	507	2911
1984	30,062	534	2911

PLANTING DATES: Planting extends continually from Mid-September to Mid-November. Early plantings are harvested in early December, while October plantings are harvested in January and February. Most of the lettuce is planted with pelleted seed and a precision planter. Seeds are planted 2-3 inches apart in-row on 42 inch beds. Cost of seed per acre varies with variety coating, spacing, and seed enhancement treatments. A good range would be \$50.00-\$80.00/acre.

VARIETIES: The date of planting affects the variety grown since the season progresses from extreme heat to cool days and freezing nights, then back to moderately high temperatures in early spring. Varieties commonly planted are: "Excell", "Empire", "Palmetto", "Valor", "Diplomat", "La Jolla", "Winterset", "Desert Queen", "Greenbud", "MOR 109", "Vanmor", "Winterhaven", "Red Coach 74", and "Vanguard". Early plantings mature in about 90 days while later ones require 120 or more days.

SOILS: Silt loams and sandy soils are preferred. The lighter soils provide better drainage during cold weather and warm up more readily. Lettuce has a moderately low degree or salt tolerance. Excess salinity results in poor seed germination and small heads.

IRRIGATION: Most growers use sprinklers until the seedlings emerge to provide better stands. Gated pipe is also used, especially near harvest. The irrigation labor costs used also include shovel work, grader work, and pipe setting.

FERTILIZERS: Four hundred fifty pounds of 11-52-0 are broadcast prior to listing. Nitrogen is sidedressed just after thinning and during later growth. Early, warm-season lettuce requires less N than that grown in January and February. About 150 pounds N are used early, while 200-250 pounds are applied to the cold weather crop.

PEST CONTROL: Herbicides are applied preplant incorporated or preemergence. Watch for crickets, cutworms, leafminers, salt marsh caterpillars, and beet armyworms. Cabbage loopers can be especially serious after thinning. The most serious diseases are big vein, lettuce infectious yellows virus, bottom rot, and sclerotinia. Use mosaic-free seed 0:30000.

HARVESTING: Lettuce is field packed in cartons, hauled to vacuum coolers and shipped to market in refrigerated trucks. Field packing of film-wrapped heads is also common. Cooling and palletizing is paid by the receiver. Some companies bulk harvest lettuce in bins to be shredded for use by fast food outlets.

GUIDELINES TO PRODUCTION COSTS AND PRACTICES
IMPERIAL COUNTY CROPS, CIRCULAR 104
 1989 - 1990

CUSTOM RATE CHARGES

<u>HEAVY TRACTOR WORK</u>	<u>PRICE/ACRE</u>
Plow	\$ 24.75
Subsoil 2nd Gear	29.25
Disc, Regular	9.50
Disc, Stubble	18.25
Float	8.25
Triplane	8.75
List, Regular	11.50
List, and Rerun 80" Melon Beds	22.00
Reshape 80" Melon Beds	10.00
Landplane	10.00
Chisel	20.75
 <u>PLANTING AND CULTIVATING</u>	
Plant and Shape Melon Beds	16.75
Precision Plant 42" Beds	14.50
Plant Carrots	13.75
Plant Onions	16.75
Cultivate 4-Row 42" Beds	10.75
Cultivate Melon Beds	14.00
Spike and Furrow Out (2 row)	10.50
Lilliston	9.50
Furrow out alone	8.00
Move N-Side 80" Beds for Irrigation	9.50
 <u>INCORPORATING, BORDER AND BED WORK</u>	
Power Incorporate herbicides	20.25
Border, Cross checks and Break Borders	15.00
Bust Melon Beds	9.00
Roll Beds	5.00
 <u>FERTILIZER APPLICATION</u>	
Broadcast Fertilizer	6.00
Inject Fertilizer (Flat)	9.00
Fertilize and Furrow Out 42" Beds	10.50
Fertilize and Furrow Out 80" Beds	10.50
 <u>IRRIGATION</u>	
Custom Sprinkle	135.00-145.00
 <u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>	
Motor Grader/Hour	42.75
Chop Broccoli, Corn Stalks, Etc.	10.00
Water truck/Hour	34.00
Cultipacker	6.00
Ground Spray Pesticides (4 Row)	7.00
Aerial Spray 5 Gal. (Insecticides)	4.50
Aerial Spray 10 Gal. (Fungicides)	5.00