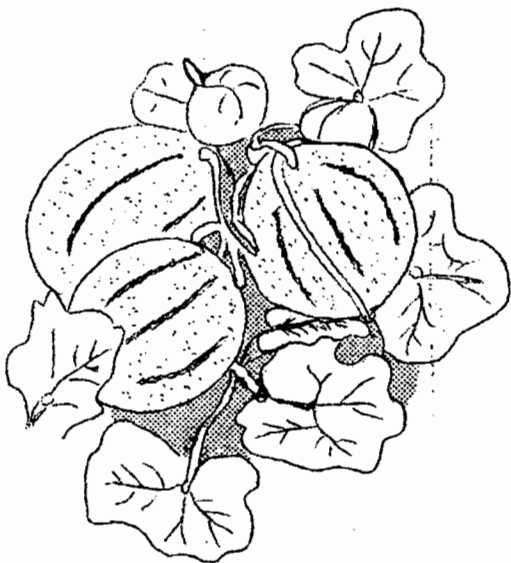


cantaloupes (fall)

sample costs
and
production



Agricultural Extension Service
University of California
Imperial County
Court House, El Centro

Cost Data Sheet No. 7

UC Cooperative Extension

FALL CANTALOUPE--SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Hand labor at \$3.00 per hour (\$2.53 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, transportation, supervision and fringe benefits).

Yield - 175 crates per acre (7 tons). 85 - 90 days to maturity.

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
LAND PREPARATION						
Plow or subsoil	\$12.00					\$ 12.00
Disc 2x	3.50					7.00
Border & break border	4.00					4.00
Flood		Water .75 ac ft	2.00		2.00	4.00
Fertilize	2.50	200# 11-48-0	46.00			48.50
Disc 2x	3.50					7.00
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						\$ 82.50
GROWING PERIOD						
Run Flat Beds	5.50					5.50
Plant	4.50	Seed 1 1/2#				
		@ 5.00	7.50			12.00
Pollination		Hives 1.5 @ 10.00	15.00			15.00
Thin				4	12.00	12.00
Cultivate 2x	3.50					7.00
Fertilize - side-dress 1x	4.50	60# N @ 20¢	12.00			16.50
Weed 1x				4	12.00	12.00
Sprinkler Irrigate		Rent	30.00	10	30.00	60.00
Irrigate 3x		Water 2 ac ft	5.40	8	24.00	29.40
Pest Control 2x	3.00	Pesticides, Fungicides	15.00			21.00
TOTAL GROWING PERIOD						\$190.40
GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREP COSTS						\$272.90
Land Rent						100.00
Cash Overhead - 10% of preharvest costs and land rent						37.29
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS						\$410.19
HARVEST						
Pick, haul, pack, & crate 175 crates @ 4.25						\$743.75
TOTAL ALL COSTS						\$1153.94

Cost per crate = \$6.59

YIELDS

From 100 to 200 crates per acre are harvested. Average yields are about 140-175 crates. The Agricultural Commissioner's reports show seasonal average price per ton during the past five years varied from a low of \$121.33 in 1969 to a high of \$189.45 in 1973.

PLANTING DATES

The fall crop is generally planted during the last two weeks of July through the first two weeks in August for harvest in mid-October and November.

VARIETIES

Nearly all of the acreage is planted to Topmark.

SOILS

Well drained soils are preferred. Sandy or silt loams are sometimes selected for the earliest crop.

IRRIGATION

After planting, the beds are subbed past the seed line. Fall crops may be sprinkler irrigated. When harvesting begins, water is applied by quick, light irrigations. During this time, excessive moisture may increase ground spotting, rotted and soft fruit.

FERTILIZERS

200 pounds of 11-48-0 may be applied before listing if needed. Sixty pounds of nitrogen are sidedressed in one sidedress application.

POLLINATION

One bee hive per acre is required. Some growers use 1 1/2 hives per acre. The bees should be distributed on at least two sides of a 40 acre field.

PESTS AND DISEASES

Fall cantaloupes are subject to fewer pest problems than spring melons. Nematodes, cutworms, aphids, mites, loopers, leafhoppers, leafminers, ground beetles, crickets, mosaic virus and mildew may be problems. Consult your Farm Advisor for pest control recommendations.

HARVESTING

Fall cantaloupes are harvested in October and November. The fruit are 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. Some 2/3 crate cartons are being used instead of the standard wood crate.

SPECIAL PRACTICES

If fumigated, add \$4.00 application fee and \$26.60 fumigant.

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