

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION - UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

FRESH MARKET SQUASH UNDER HOT CAPS

Cost Analysis Work Sheet - 1984

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Sample costs to produce fresh market squash in Fresno County, using Super Hot Tent hot caps, are based on a yield of 950 28-lbs. boxes per acre, on a 40" bed center to center, 24" in between plants, two plants per hill. Field labor is \$4.00 per hour, cost to the grower. Older 30 hp wheel gasoline tractor per hour cost \$4.40. Tillage equipment is assumed to be owned by the farmer, and all equipment is already depreciated to a lower value. This is considered to be one crop on a ten-acre farm, where several vegetable crops are produced.

PRE HARVEST COSTS	SAMPLE COSTS		MY COSTS	
	Per Acre	Per Box	Per Acre	Per Box
Land Preparation - 2 hrs. of labor and tractor	\$ 16.80	£ 1.7		
Weed Control - Preplant incorporated				
1 hr. labor and tractor	8.40	.8		
Herbicide	22.20	2.3		
Preplant fertilizer 55 N, 148 P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>				
Material	56.00	5.8		
Application 1.5 hr. labor and tractor	12.60	1.3		
Plants - 6,600 sets (2 each)	660.00	69.4		
Planting - Hand (27 hrs. labor)	108.00	11.3		
Hot caps - 6,600 at 14¢ each	924.00	97.2		
Hot caps installation				
1-1/2 hr. tractor	6.60	.6		
6 hrs. labor	24.00	2.5		
Open caps - weeding remove - 40 hrs. labor	160.00	16.8		
Cut worm baiting				
2 hrs. labor	8.00	.8		
material	10.00	1.0		
Fertilization (Nitrogen at 44¢/lbs.) 100 lbs.	44.88	4.7		
Application - 8 hrs. labor	32.00	3.3		
Irrigation - Power (2 1/2 acre feet at \$15 @)	37.50	3.8		
Insect control - material and labor	50.80	5.3		
Repairs	45.00	4.7		
Rent	125.00	13.1		
Office expenses and business costs	142.08	1.9		
Bees	15.00	1.5		
<b>Total Preharvest Costs</b>	<b>\$2,508.86</b>	<b>\$ 2.64</b>		
<b>HARVEST COSTS</b>				
Pick Up and haul				
570 hrs. labor and 8 hrs. tractor	\$2,315.20	\$ 2.43		
Dump, sort, pack - 205 hrs.	820.00	.86		
Cartons - 75¢ each	712.50	.75		
Shed, miscellaneous, etc.	47.50	.04		
<b>TOTAL HARVEST COSTS</b>	<b>\$3,895.20</b>	<b>\$ 4.10</b>		
<b>TOTAL CASH COSTS</b>	<b>\$6,405.14</b>	<b>\$ 6.74</b>		

	SAMPLE COSTS		MY COSTS	
	Per Acre	Per Box	Per Acre	Per Box
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>				
Tractor and equipment				
Irrigation equipment, 10 years - \$3,500	\$ 35.00	\$ 0.3		
<b>TOTAL DEPRECIATION</b>	<b>35.00</b>	<b>0.3</b>		
Interest on Investment at 12%				
Tractor equipment				
Irrigation equipment 1/2 cost				
1750 for 10 acres	21.00	0.2		
<b>Total Interest on Investment</b>	<b>21.00</b>	<b>0.2</b>		
<b>TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION</b>	<b>\$6,461.32</b>	<b>\$6.80</b>		

SAMPLE COST OF PRODUCTION AT VARYING YIELDS

Yield:	700	800	900	950	1,000	1,100	1,200
28-Lbs. carton							
Cash costs/carton	8.88	7.86	7.07	6.74	6.44	5.92	5.49
Total Cost/Carton	8.93	7.91	7.12	6.79	6.49	5.97	5.54

MUCH LABOR IS REQUIRED TO PRODUCE FRESH MARKET SQUASH UNDER HOT CAPS. The preharvest operations require about 87.5 hours of work and about 590 hours of work are needed to pick, haul, dump, sort and pack the crop. These costs are charged in this costs analysis work sheet at \$4.00 per hour each. They add to a total of approximately 677.5 hours, costing \$2,710.00 per acre. This amounts to \$2.85 per carton, at 950-28 lbs. cartons/acre. The grower and family members may be able to do part of this work and reduce the cash costs by a large amount.

The amount of money that this family's labor earns will be determined by the price received for the squash. Labor may also be available at higher or lower costs than \$4.00 per hour. If so, this will increase or reduce the cost per carton on or below the amount shown on the cost analysis work sheet.

**NOTE:**

As a grower, you may find it difficult to interpret this cost analysis sheet. However, it may be easier if you remember the following facts and assumptions, which were used in arriving at these figures:

- 1) All activities are listed sequentially;
- 2) Whenever possible, hours of labor and tractor work are listed separately;
- 3) All labor is paid, whether it is family labor or not;
- 4) All the activities described are given a dollar value. However, you may choose to, depending on your resources, perform only some of them; and
- 5) Finally, that no two farmers are alike.

You may be able to perform some of these activities more efficiently than others, thus cutting your costs down accordingly, or may have tools and resources that make you better suited to grow this crop than other farmers, thus reducing your costs down even further.

Louie H. Valenzuela, Area Farm Advisor  
 Santa Barbara, Ventura & San Luis Obispo Counties

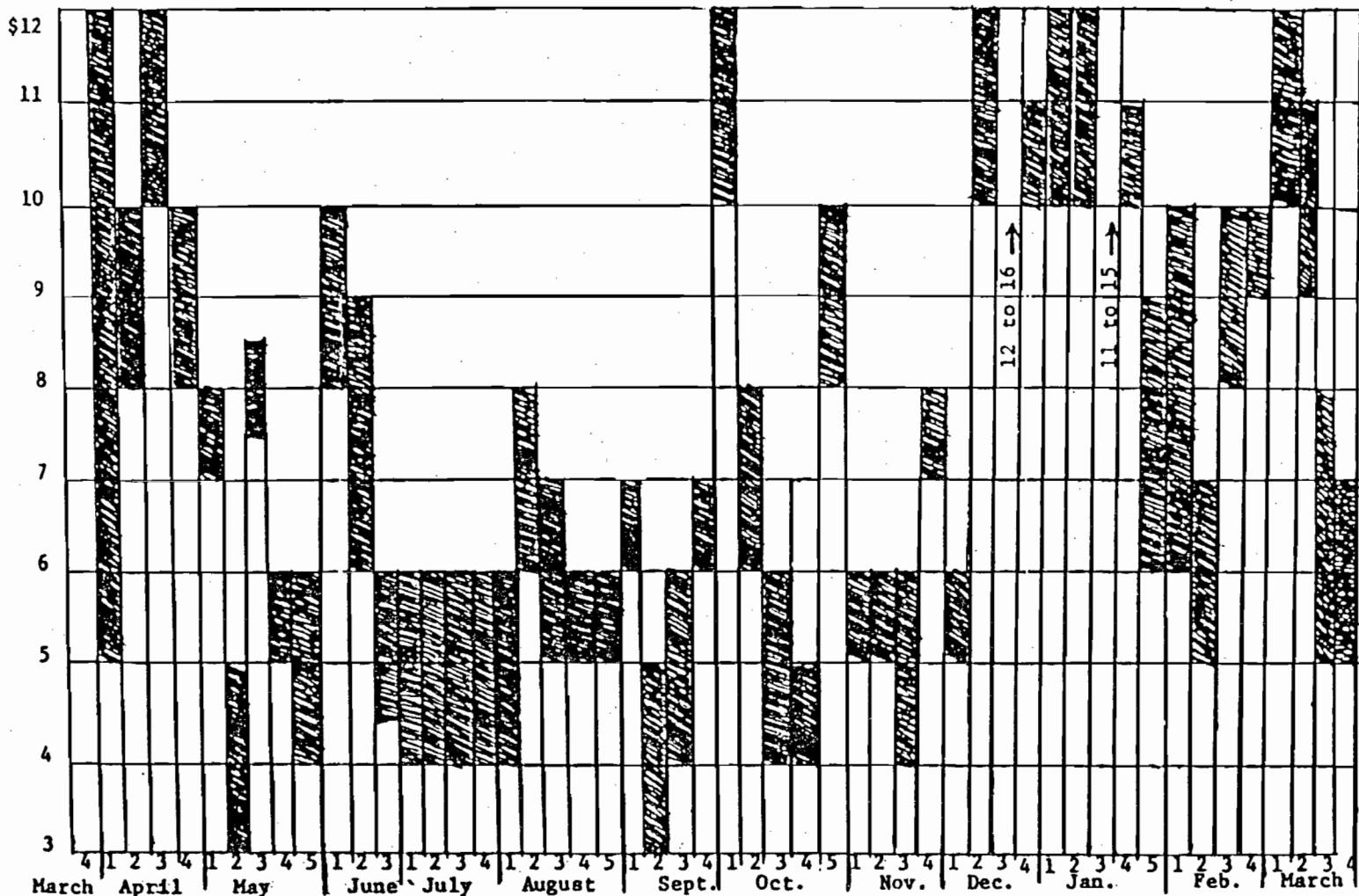
**GREEN ITALIAN SQUASH PRICES, WHOLESALE, LOS ANGELES MARKET**

Weekly from March 28, 1983 to March 26, 1984

Per pound, Monday prices

Shaded areas show ranges between highest and lowest prices

From "Los Angeles Wholesale Market Prices, Fruits and Vegetables"  
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