

# AMERICAN EGGPLANT PRODUCTION FOR FRESH MARKET

Cost Analysis Work Sheet - 1990

EG-VS-90

Prepared by Pedro Ilic, Fresno County Farm Advisor

Sample costs to produce American Eggplants in Fresno County are based on 4500 boxes per acre. Each box weighs approximately 28 lbs. Field labor is \$5.50 per hour cost to the grower reflecting 7.65% social security, 3.4% unemployment insurance and 11.3% workmen's compensation. The grower has invested in various specialized pieces of equipment to lay mulch, build tunnels and fumigate. Eggplants in this case are planted 7' apart between rows and 3' apart in the row. This is one crop in an 80 acre farm where raisin grapes and other vegetables are produced.

## PRE-HARVEST COSTS:

	Per Acre	Per Box
<b>Land Preparation</b>		
3 hrs. labor + tractor and implements	\$50.25	
Laser Leveling, Custom	\$75.00	
<b>Bed Fumigation</b>		
(2hrs. labor + tractor and implements)	\$23.00	
MB/CP-120 lb (365 lb solid basis) at \$1.05 a lb.	\$126.47	
Plastic Tarp	\$171.00	
Drip Tape	\$162.00	
<b>Fertilization</b>		
Preplant	\$68.60	
Application (.5 hr. labor + tractor)	\$5.75	
<b>Post Planting</b>		
Nitrogen (200 lbs)	\$84.48	
Plants 65/1000	\$202.00	
<b>Planting</b>		
(15 hrs. labor + 1.5 hr. tractor & planter)	\$91.50	
Pruning (60 hrs. labor)	\$330.00	
Staking (18 hrs. labor)	\$99.00	
<b>Tying</b>		
Labor 4x @ 12 hrs each	\$264.00	
<b>Pest Control (3x material)</b>		
Application - 5 hrs (tractor + labor)	\$57.50	
<b>Irrigation</b>		
PG&E (7mnths @ \$50/mnth.)	\$350.00	
<b>Plant Removal</b>		
Shredder rental	\$11.25	
Tractor (1 hr.) + Labor	\$11.50	
<b>Plastic Mulch Removal, Drip Tape</b>		
(8 hrs. labor + 2 hrs. tractor)	\$56.00	
Plastic Disposal	\$60.00	
<b>Stake Removal</b>		
(14 hrs. labor + 2 hrs. tractor)	\$89.00	
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$100.00	
Office Expenses (6% preharvest costs)	\$169.00	

**TOTAL PRE-HARVEST COSTS**

**\$2,987.30**

**\$0.66**

Per Acre

Per Box

**HARVEST COSTS**

Picking	\$3,375.00	\$0.75
Boxes	\$4,500.00	\$1.00
Packing	\$1,125.00	\$0.25
Transportation & Cooling	\$450.00	\$0.10
<b>TOTAL HARVEST COSTS</b>	<b>\$9,450.00</b>	<b>\$2.10</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH COST</b>	<b>\$12,437.30</b>	<b>\$2.76</b>

**DEPRECIATION**

Tractor 75 hp (large)	\$43.00	
Kubota tractor	\$50.00	
Tunnel machine	\$35.00	
Equipment - wire hoops	\$41.00	
Shed (other)	\$3.00	
Drip line	\$214.60	
Drip irrigation	\$70.00	
<b>TOTAL DEPRECIATION</b>	<b>\$456.60</b>	<b>\$0.10</b>

**INTEREST ON INVESTMENT AT 8%**

1/2 cost of \$30,000 for 80 acres	\$15.00	
Tractor, tunnel equipment, & wire	\$54.00	
Shed	\$2.00	
Drip irrigation (filters, mains, etc.)	\$28.00	
<b>TOTAL INTEREST ON INVESTMENT</b>	<b>\$99.00</b>	<b>\$0.02</b>
<b>TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION</b>	<b>\$12,992.90</b>	<b>\$2.89</b>

Note: These costs were arrived at through a careful review of the activities a successful grower takes to produce American Eggplants using bed fumigation, plastic mulch and drip irrigation. There are other methods of controlling weeds and nematodes, which can be effective, as well. Consult your pest control advisor or your local farm advisor for more information. The distance between beds and plants upon which this cost study is based are not universal, but rather reflect grower likes and farm equipment availability to perform fumigation, and cultivation. The minimum distance between beds when using mulches, tunnels and bed fumigation is 5 feet.

Like wise, all activities listed herein can only be judged as an approximations, since no two growers are alike in the way they farm. However, the costs should be fairly close to these should the same circumstances apply. Take into account when computing your expenses, that all labor has been charged against the cost of production, whether it was paid or not or came from family members. If you and your family provide the labor, then your cash expenses will be for inputs such as fertilizers, plastics, fuel, etc. and will therefore, reflect a much reduced level of expenditure on a per acre basis. However, take into account that to maximize production, weeds, diseases, and other variables that may reduce yields need to be controlled. This grower's cost of production reflect the activities he has followed for years to produce high consistent yield on a regular basis.