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. Being shallow-rooted, onions need a friable soil which contains moisture about the roots especially after cultivation. Avoid salty, hard, or weed-infested soils.

IRRIGATION

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Generally, between 200 and 250 lbs of actual nitrogen per acre and 144 and 200 lbs of P₂O₅ are applied. All P₂O₅ and 33 to 50 lbs of nitrogen are usually broadcast before listing followed by two side-dressings of nitrogen.

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Prepared by
Imperial County Agricultural Extension Staff
Revised August '74

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market onions
sample costs
and production

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University of California's Agricultural Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, or national origin.

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

Cost Est. Sheet No. 16
UC Cooperative Extension
ONIONS FRESH MARKET—SALK LE 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 - 600 50# sacks per acre (15 tons). 150+ days to maturity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPERATION</th>
<th>Custom Rate</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>MATERIALS</th>
<th>HAND LABOR</th>
<th>SAMPLE COSTS</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>Dollars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAND PREPARATION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Flow or subsoil</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disc 2x</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Border &amp; break</td>
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<td>Water .75 ft/A</td>
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<td>48.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disc 2x</td>
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<td>7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landplane 2x</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION</td>
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<td>Plant</td>
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<td>Seed 2# $20.00</td>
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<td>Herbicide 2x</td>
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<td>+ coating</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultivate 2x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fertilize - side-dress 2x</td>
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<td>$250# N @ 20#</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>51.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weed 2x</td>
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<td>Rent</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sprinklers</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irrigate 12x</td>
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<td>Water 4 ac ft</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<td>Pesticides</td>
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<td>12.00</td>
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<td>GROWING PERIOD &amp; LAND PREP COSTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land Rent</td>
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<td>Cash Overhead - 10% of preharvest costs and land rent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dig, top, haul, pack, sacks, selling commission for 600 sacks at $1.65 per 50# sack</td>
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<td>TOTAL ALL COSTS</td>
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<td>$1625.03</td>
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</table>

Cost per sack = $2.71

YIELDS

Normal yields range 400 to 800 fifty pound sacks per acre, although top yields have exceeded 900 sacks. The Agricultural Commissioner’s reports show seasonal average price per ton during the past five years varied from a low of $54.90 in 1971 to a high of $242.46 in 1973. There were 1500 acres grown in 1973.

PLANTING

Most acreage is direct seeded from mid-October to mid-November. Forty two inch beds with 4 to 6 lines are used.

VARIETIES

Because 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 Beaxex. Seed costs may vary from $7.00-$22.00 per pound or higher depending upon variety and season.
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SOILS

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Cooperative Extension work in agriculture and Home Economics is conduct of the United States Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the University of California and the State Agricultural Extension Service.

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