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SAMPLE COSTS AND LOCAL PRACTICES FOR GROWING CARROTS IN VENTURA COUNTY

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YIELD

Carrots are most commonly shipped in crates of 6 dozen bunches, 50 pound sacks, or wirebound crates of 48 one-pound bags. A bunch or bag has at least one pound of carrots. The average weight of roots in a bunch or a bag is about $1\frac{1}{4}$ pounds. A good yield is 30,000 pounds/acre, 350 crates, 600 50-pound sacks, or 500 wirebounds.

WHEN TO PLANT AND HARVEST

Fall and winter carrots are planted in July and August for harvesting in October through January. Spring and summer carrots are planted in December through February for harvesting in April through July. The trend is toward year-around production. Weather permits planting and harvesting any month of the year. Seasons are determined by markets.

VARIETIES

Long Imperator is the most popular variety. There are other varieties that would be satisfactory. Varieties are determined by shippers.

COST FIGURES

Cost figures were developed by conferring with shippers and growers familiar with local practices. This set of figures should be considered as a sample. Your costs will not be exactly the same. Where you know your costs will differ, substitute your own figures to develop your own estimate.

For operations involving machinery, for rent, and for water, figures used are to cover all overhead charges, such as interest on investment, taxes, upkeep, and depreciation.

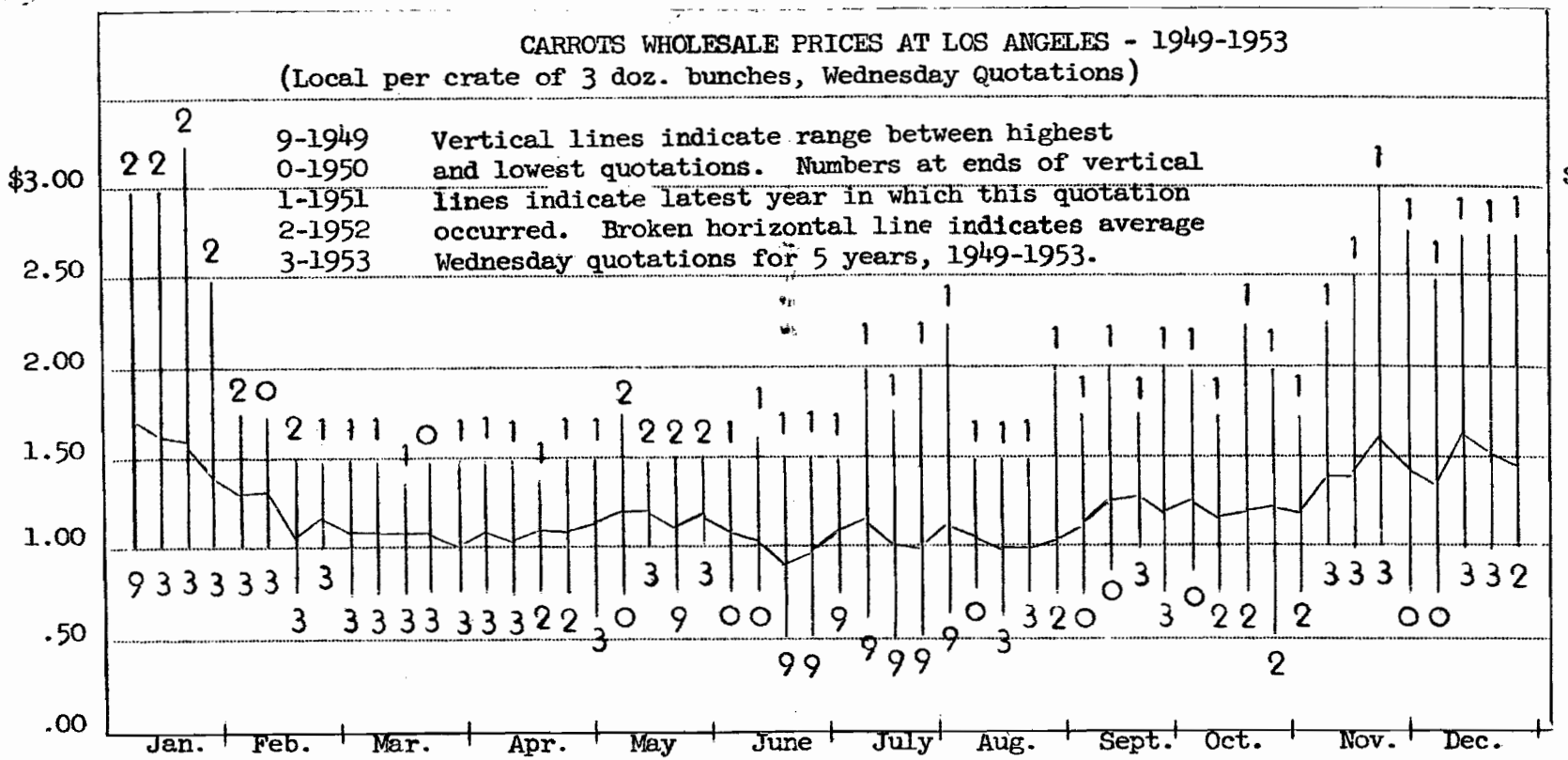
"General and Miscellaneous" should include charges for interest on operating capital, supervision not charged above, and such business and administrative costs as accountant fees, your own transportation, telephone, etc.

COST OF PRODUCING CARROTS

(Based on yield of 350 crates (6 doz. each), 600 50-pound bags, or 500 wirebound crates of 48 1-lb.bags)

Items	Cost per Acre	Your Cost per Acre
Labor, power and equipment		
Plow 1 x	$ 4.00	
Disk and harrow 1 x	1.50	
Land Plane 3 x	3.00	
Harrow 1 x	1.00	
Furrow 1 x	1.40	
Roll or shape beds 1 x	1.40	
Plant	2.00	
Irrigate 4-5 x	10.00	
Hoe	8.00	
Fertilize 1 x	2.50	
Cultivate or chisel 5-6 x	15.00	
Total	$49.80	
Contract Work (material incl.)		
Dust 1 x	4.00	
Spray for weeds	17.50	
Fumigate soil	34.00	
Total	$55.50	
Material Costs		
Water 1½ Acre feet at $6.00	9.00	
Seed - 2 pounds at $2.00	4.00	
Fertilizer - 300 lb. 16-20	15.00	
Total	28.00	
Other Costs		
Rent Land - 1/2 year	65.00	
Insurance, Compensation	1.25	
General and Miscellaneous	8.00	
Total	$ 74.25	
Total Pre-harvest	207.55	
*Harvesting and Packing	805.00	
Total All Costs	$1012.55	

* 50 bags



SUMMARY OF COSTS

	Pre-Harvest	Harvest and Pack	Total
		Cost per Unit	
Crates, 6 doz. bunches	$ .59	$ 2.80	$ 3.39
50 pound bags	.35	1.34	1.69
Crates, 4 doz. 1 lb. bags	.41	3.20	3.61
		Cost per Acre	
Crates, 6 doz. bunches	$ 207.50	$ 980.00	$1187.50
50 pound bags	207.50	805.00	1012.50
Crates, 4 doz. 1 lb. bags	207.50	1600.00	1807.50

PRICES

Supply and demand rule. Harvest date can be shifted to some extent and carrots may also be stored for two weeks or more to take advantage of market fluctuations. If the fresh market is extremely poor, canners and dehydrators help to prevent total loss of crop.

Price/Bu. (50 lb. Topped) to Grower
(Mostly fresh market, some for processing)

	1949-51	1952	1953
Winter	$1.77	$1.90	$2.05
Summer	1.93	1.70	2.30
Fall	2.33	2.10	3.20

THE LAND

Most of our irrigated soils are suitable for carrots. Extremes of sand and clay are objectionable. Uniformity of soil texture and evenness of grade are necessary for uniform maturity. Since the whole crop is harvested at one time, parts of the field which mature early or late are somewhat of a loss.

PLANTING, CULTIVATION, AND WEED CONTROL

Two early cultivations control early weeds and keep beds in shape. Three additional cultivations in which a chisel is run 4"-8" deep on at least one side of each row are usually sufficient. Value of the chiseling is questionable.

A small amount of earth thrown over crowns in the last cultivation will reduce the amount of green color in the crowns.

Weeds in the row that cannot be reached by cultivation are killed by spraying with carrot weed oil or Stoddard solvent at around 60 gal./Acre after the first true leaf is formed and not later than formation of the fourth leaf. Temperature should not exceed 80 degrees F. when spraying is done.

FERTILIZER

Fertilizing is usually done in one side dressing five-six weeks after planting. Nitrogen, phosphorus and potash are commonly used. Nitrogen has been applied sparingly to avoid large tops. Further testing is necessary before well-founded recommendations regarding amounts and elements can be made. There is a good chance that nitrogen alone would be adequate in many of our soils. It is unlikely that potash increases yields or quality. A common practice is to use 25 to 50 pounds each of nitrogen and phosphorus. Now that much of the crop is shipped without tops, more nitrogen deserves consideration.

IRRIGATION

Most carrots are irrigated up. In dry weather this may involve keeping water in furrows for long periods. After germination, unless rain provides some moisture, the crop will need around four irrigations. The crop must be kept growing rapidly for good quality.

HARVESTING AND MARKETING

Harvesting is usually done by the shipper. Date of harvesting is determined by size of roots desired and the market situation. Now that a large part of the crop is shipped without tops, there is a good chance for mechanization to reduce present high labor requirements of harvesting.

DISEASES AND PESTS

Nematodes and wireworms seriously reduce carrot quality. Most fields are fumigated with EDB or DD a few weeks before planting to control these pests. Other pests and diseases are not usually troublesome. A dusting with DDT to control worms is advisable most seasons.

Seed treatment with Arasan SFX dust, 2 ozs. per 100 pounds seed, or Spergon SL, 8 ozs. (slurry) per 100 pounds seed will reduce losses from damping off.