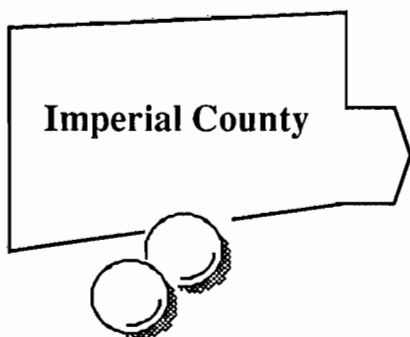


# MIXED MELON

ML-SI-90

## PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS 1989 - 1990



University of California  
Cooperative Extension



UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

# Mixed Melon Projected Production Costs 1989-1990

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Hand labor at \$5.75 per hour (\$4.50 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, transportation, supervision and fringe benefits).

Yield--600 cartons per acre. 85-90 days to maturity. Hybrid Honeydews

OPERATION	CUSTOM RATE	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
<b>LAND PREPARATION</b>						
Stubble disc 1x	18.25					18.25
Subsoil 1x	29.25					29.25
Disc 1x	9.50					9.50
Landplane 2x	10.00					20.00
Border, cross check & break borders	15.00					15.00
Flood		Water 1/2 ac/ft	5.50	1	5.75	11.25
Fertilize	4.50	300# 11-52-0	40.50			45.00
Disc 2x	9.50					19.00
Triplane	8.75					8.75
List flat beds	11.50					11.50
<b>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION COSTS</b>						<b>169.25</b>

<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>						
Plant & shape	12.00	Seed 1 1/2# @ 210.00	315.00			327.00
Thin				5	28.75	28.75
Cultivate and reshape 2x	18.00					36.00
Fertilize & furrow out 1x	10.50	60# N @ .31	18.60			29.10
Pollination		Hives 1 1/2 @ 18.00	27.00			27.00
Hand weed 1x				6	34.50	34.50
Irrigate 3x		Water 2 ac/ft	22.00	8	46.00	68.00
Water run fertilizer		60# N @ .31	18.60			18.60
Insect control 4x	4.50	Insecticides	36.00			54.00
Disease control 2x	5.00	Fungicides	14.50			24.50
Disc out beds	9.50					9.50
<b>TOTAL GROWING PERIOD</b>						<b>656.95</b>

<b>GROWING PERIOD &amp; LAND PREPARATION COSTS</b>						<b>826.20</b>
Land Rent (net acres)						175.00
Cash Overhead-----		12% of Preharvest costs & land rent				120.14
<b>TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS</b>						<b>1121.34</b>

<b>HARVEST (Field pack)</b>						
Pick, haul, pack and sell		600 cartons @	2.60	per carton		1560.00
<b>TOTAL ALL COSTS</b>						<b>2681.34</b>

		PROJECTED INCOME ABOVE COSTS (PER ACRE)					Breakeven \$/carton
		price/carton					
		3.50	4.50	6.50	7.50	8.50	
Cartons per acre	400	-761	-361	439	839	1239	5.40
	500	-671	-171	829	1329	1829	4.84
	600	-581	19	1219	1819	2419	4.47
	700	-491	209	1609	2309	3009	4.20
	800	-401	399	1999	2799	3599	4.00

**MIXED MELON CULTURE  
1989-1990**

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>HONEYDEWS YIELD/ACRE (CARTONS)</u>	<u>VALUE/ACRE</u>
1988	2423	604	\$1340
1987	3624	476	2367
1986	3567	292	1340
1985	2937	394	2504
1984	2625	425	3150

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>MISCELLANEOUS MELONS YIELD/ACRE (CARTONS)</u>	<u>VALUE/ACRE</u>
1988	950	452	\$3128
1987	743	430	2056
1986	760	368	1760
1985	1567	215	1371
1984	1265	305	2266

**PLANTING DATES:** Mixed melons are planted in July and early August for harvest starting in October until frost. A small acreage may also be planted in the spring.

**Yield:** The term "mixed melons" includes the following muskmelons: honeydew, crenshaw, casaba, Juan canari, Santa Claus, and Persian. The greatest acreage is sown to honeydews and crenshaws. Yields vary with season, disease incidence and kind of melon. There are potentially 1200-1300 cartons per acre, but most often yields are half that amount. Some years, the average yield is only 300-500 cartons per acre due to infectious yellows virus.

**VARIETIES AND PLANTING:** The standard honeydew varieties are "Green Flesh Honeydew", "Orange Flesh Honeydew" and Hybrid Honeybrew. "White Crenshaw" is becoming more popular than "Green Skinned Crenshaw" due to sunburn resistance. White crenshaw has a pale yellow skin and salmon colored flesh.

Melon seed is sown in single rows down the middle of alternate 42 inch N-S beds. The seed is planted about 1/2 inch deep. After emergence the plants are thinned 6-12 inches apart depending upon planting date and melon type.

Later in the season the non-planted offbeds are split and the soil is moved to form 80 inch wide beds. Cultivation of weeds and sidedress fertilization are accomplished during this phase of culture.

**FERTILIZERS:** Three hundred pounds of 11-52-0 may be applied prior to listing (as needed). Sixty to eighty pounds of nitrogen are sidedressed in a single application. Fall melons tend to grow larger in size than the spring planted crop. Size is controlled by spacing, fertilization and irrigation stress.

**POLLINATION:** One to 1 1/2 bee colonies per acre are recommended. The bees should be distributed on at least two sides per 40 acres.

**PEST CONTROL:** Most growers use only mechanical cultivation and hand hoeing for weed control. Insect pests include: crickets, ground beetles, cutworms, loopers, armyworms, leafminers and aphids. Diseases include: powdery mildew, downy mildew, lettuce infectious yellows virus, charcoal rot and sudden wilt. Consult your farm advisor for the latest pest control recommendations.

**HARVESTING:** Mixed melons are usually field packed, or picked and hauled to the edge of the field to small temporary packing sheds. The melons are packed into cardboard cartons containing a divider partition. There are 5,6 or 8 melons per 30 pound carton. The cartons are forced air cooled prior to shipping. Cooling and palletizing are paid by the receiver.

GUIDELINES TO PRODUCTION COSTS AND PRACTICES  
IMPERIAL COUNTY CROPS, CIRCULAR 104  
1989 - 1990

CUSTOM RATE CHARGES

HEAVY TRACTOR WORK

PRICE/ACRE

Plow	\$ 24.75
Subsoil 2nd Gear	29.25
Disc, Regular	9.50
Disc, Stubble	18.25
Float	8.25
Triplane	8.75
List, Regular	11.50
List, and Rerun 80" Melon Beds	22.00
Reshape 80" Melon Beds	10.00
Landplane	10.00
Chisel	20.75

PLANTING AND CULTIVATING

Plant and Shape Melon Beds	16.75
Precision Plant 42" Beds	14.50
Plant Carrots	13.75
Plant Onions	16.75
Cultivate 4-Row 42" Beds	10.75
Cultivate Melon Beds	14.00
Spike and Furrow Out (2 row)	10.50
Lilliston	9.50
Furrow out alone	8.00
Move N-Side 80" Beds for Irrigation	9.50

INCORPORATING, BORDER AND BED WORK

Power Incorporate herbicides	20.25
Border, Cross checks and Break Borders	15.00
Bust Melon Beds	9.00
Roll Beds	5.00

FERTILIZER APPLICATION

Broadcast Fertilizer	6.00
Inject Fertilizer (Flat)	9.00
Fertilize and Furrow Out 42" Beds	10.50
Fertilize and Furrow Out 80" Beds	10.50

IRRIGATION

Custom Sprinkle	135.00-145.00
-----------------	---------------

MISCELLANEOUS

Motor Grader/Hour	42.75
Chop Broccoli, Corn Stalks, Etc.	10.00
Water truck/Hour	34.00
Cultipacker	6.00
Ground Spray Pesticides (4 Row)	7.00
Aerial Spray 5 Gal. (Insecticides)	4.50
Aerial Spray 10 Gal. (Fungicides)	5.00