

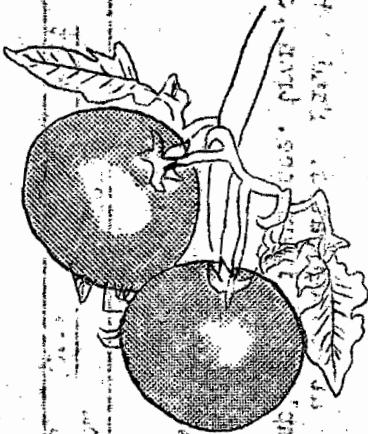
tomatoes

mature green

sample costs

and

production



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

MATURE GREEN TOMATOES, OPEN GROWN--SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Hand labor at \$2.25 per hour (\$2.10 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, transportation, supervision and fringe benefits).

Yield - 7.0 tons or 465 - 30# boxes.

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
<b>LAND PREPARATION</b>						
Plow or subsoil	9.00					\$9.00
Disc 2x	2.50					5.00
Border & break border	1.00					1.00
Flood		water .75 ac ft	1.73	1	2.25	3.98
Fertilize	1.50	400# 11-48-0	17.00			18.50
Disc 2x	2.50					5.00
Landplane 2x	2.75					5.50
Fumigate	3.50	fumigant	19.00			22.50
Border disc	5.00					5.00
<b>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION</b>						<b>\$75.48</b>
<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>						
Plant & shape beds	5.00	seed 1# @ 14.00	14.00			19.00
Thin				16	36.00	36.00
Cultivate 3x	7.50					22.50
Fertilize - side-dress 2x	3.00	200# N @ 12¢	24.00			30.00
Hoe 2x				10	22.50	22.50
Layby	3.00	herbicide	7.00			10.00
Irrigate 10x		water 7 ac ft @ 2.30	16.10	11	24.75	40.85
Insect control 12x	1.75	insecticides	48.00			69.00
<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>						<b>\$249.85</b>
<b>GROWING PERIOD AND LAND PREPARATION COSTS</b>						<b>\$325.33</b>
Land Rent						75.00
Cash Overhead -15% of preharvest costs and land rent						60.05
<b>TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS</b>						<b>\$460.38</b>
<b>HARVEST</b>						
Contract @ \$2.70 per 30# box, including picking, hauling and packing						\$1255.50
<b>TOTAL ALL COSTS</b>						<b>1715.88</b>

Cost per box = \$3.69

The Agricultural Commissioner's reports show seasonal average price per ton during the past five years varied from a low of \$241.23 in 1968 to a high of \$273.39 in 1967.

**YIELDS**

Yields depend on the number of picks that market conditions warrant. County averages have been from 5 to over 11 tons, although yields of over 15 tons per acre are possible.

**PLANTING DATES**

Open tomatoes are planted from early January through February 15 for an early June harvest. A small acreage may also be seeded in July or August for harvest in winter.

## VARIETIES

Earlypak 7 and Ace are the principal varieties grown.

## SOILS

Medium to heavy soils are generally best, although well drained. Such soils maintain their moisture content longer and more uniformly than sandy soils.

## IRRIGATION

Moisture should be maintained as uniformly as possible. Large fluctuations in soil moisture or water stress conditions can be detrimental to plant and fruit development.

## FERTILIZERS

Before listing, 20-40 pounds nitrogen and 100-200 pounds phosphate are broadcast, although banding of reduced fertilizer rates under the seed is also practiced. After thinning, 150-200 pounds of N are sidedressed, depending on the previous crop. Excess nitrogen results in delayed and uneven maturity.

## PESTS AND DISEASES

The primary insect problems are tomato fruit worms, armyworms, thrips, aphids, and pinworms. Curly top virus and fusarium wilt are the chief diseases.

## HARVESTING

Most of the fruit is picked in the mature green stage, placed in field trailers or bins and hauled to shed for washing, cooling and packing.

