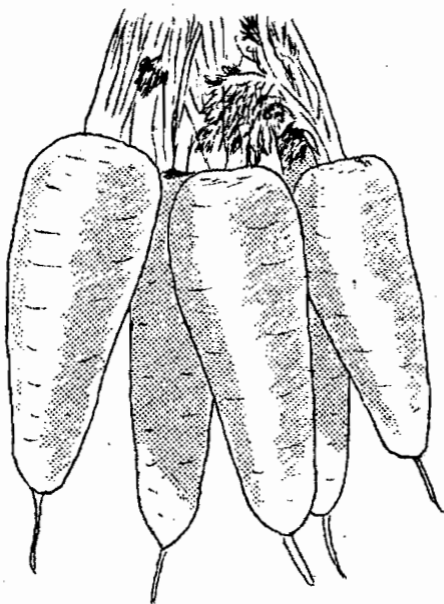


carrots
sample costs
and
production



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

Cost Data Sheet No. 14

UC Cooperative Extension

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CARROTS--SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

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

Yield - 500 54# sacks per acre (13.5 tons).

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
LAND PREPARATION						
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	19.00			20.50
Disc 2x	2.50					5.00
Landplane 2x	2.75					5.50
Fumigation	3.50	fumigant	19.00			22.50
List	3.50					3.50
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						\$75.98
GROWING PERIOD						
Plant shape beds	3.00	seed 2# @ 3.10	6.20			9.20
Weed Control 2x	3.00	herbicides	17.00			23.00
Cultivate 3x	3.00					9.00
Spike beds 3x	2.00					6.00
Fertilize-side-dress	3.00	200# N @ 12¢	24.00			27.00
Irrigate 8x		water 4 ac ft @ 2.30	9.20	15	33.75	42.95
Pest Control 1x	1.75	insecticide	5.00			6.75
GROWING PERIOD						\$123.90
GROWING PERIOD AND LAND PREPARATION COSTS						\$199.88
PREHARVEST COSTS						
Land Rent						75.00
Cash Overhead - 15% of preharvest costs and land rent						41.23
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS						\$316.11
HARVEST COSTS						
Harvest by machine, haul, pack, sell in mesh sacks containing 48 one and one eighth pound cello bags, contract rate.						\$1375.00
TOTAL ALL COSTS						\$1691.11

Cost per sack = \$3.38

Note: The cello bags are the most common consumer package although other sizes or grades will be packed from field run carrots.

~~The Agricultural Commissioner's reports show seasonal average price per ton during the past five years varied from a low of \$62.50 in 1967 to a high of \$141.00 in 1971.~~

YIELDS

Average yields are 15-20 tons per acre.

PLANTING DATES

Early carrots are planted the last week in August and early September. Later maturing carrots are planted in October and early November.

PLANTING

Some coated seed is used. Usually precision planting costs are 5.00 plus \$20.00 per acre for coating exclusive of seed cost.

VARIETIES

Long Emperor 58 is the main variety grown.

SOILS

Carrots can be grown on many of the soil types in the county. Best root development is obtained in the lighter soils.

IRRIGATION

First irrigation or "subbing" the beds for seed germination in August or early September is important. At this time of the year the air temperatures are usually high, so beds have to be wet constantly until after seedling emergence. Sprinkler irrigation may be used. The normal cost is \$30-\$70 per acre. Irrigation costs used include shovel and grader work at \$9.00 per acre.

FERTILIZERS

Previous crop history will help in determining fertilizer requirements. Phosphate is applied ahead of planting from 150-200 pounds per acre. Two hundred pounds of nitrogen is usually ample. Preplant fertilizer should be disced into the soil before listing to prevent forking.

WEED CONTROL

From 50-100 gallons of carrot oil may be applied after the crop has 2 true leaves and before roots are $1/4$ inch in diameter. A residual herbicide can be applied when carrots are 3-4 inches high. Consult your farm advisor for latest recommendations.

PESTS AND DISEASES

Crickets, grasshoppers, and cutworms can be a problem when seedlings emerge. Later, aphids and spider mites may attack the leaves, while cutworms and aphid attack crowns.

Nematodes can be controlled by fumigation, damping-off by seed treatment and root rot is usually absent under good cultural practices.

HARVESTING

Both hand and machine harvest are practiced. Harvesting takes place from December to June. Carrots are shipped with tops, in cello-paks or topped loose.

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