

MIXED LETTUCE PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS 1987-1988

Mechanical operation at custom rates. Hand labor at \$5.50 per hour (\$4.30 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, transportation, supervision and fringe benefits).

Field--700 cartons per acre		90-120 days to maturity		Romaine lettuce		
OPERATION	CUSTOM RATE	Type	MATERIALS Cost	HAND LABOR Hours	Dollars	COSTS Per Acre
<b>LAND PREPARATION</b>						
Stubble disc	17.75					17.75
Subsoil	27.00					27.00
Disc 1x	9.00					9.00
Landplane 2x	9.50					19.00
Border, cross check & break borders	15.00					15.00
Flood		Water 1/2 ac/ft	4.50	1	5.50	10.00
Fertilize	6.00	450# 11-52-0	53.00			59.00
Disc 2x	9.00					18.00
Triplane 1x	8.50					8.50
List	10.50					10.50
<b>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION</b>						<b>193.75</b>
<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>						
Incorporate herbicide	18.50	Herbicide	11.67			30.17
Precision plant	13.50	Coated seed	54.00			67.50
Sprinkler irrigate						130.00
Thin				10	55.00	55.00
Cultivate 3x	9.75					29.25
Fertilize & furrow out 2x	10.00	120# N @ .30	36.00			56.00
Water-run fertilizer		60# N @ .30	18.00			18.00
Hand weed 1x				12	66.00	66.00
Irrigate 6x		Water 3 1/2 ac/ft	31.50	7	38.50	70.00
Insect control 7x	4.90	Insecticides	115.00			149.30
Cultipacker	6.00					6.00
<b>TOTAL GROWING PERIOD</b>						<b>677.22</b>
<b>GROWING PERIOD &amp; LAND PREPARATION COSTS</b>						<b>870.97</b>
Land Rent (net acres)						175.00
Cash Overhead-----		12% of preharvest costs & land rent				125.52
<b>TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS</b>						<b>1171.49</b>
<b>HARVEST COSTS</b>						
Custom harvest: cut, pack, and haul		700 cartons @		2.70 per carton		1890.00
<b>TOTAL ALL COSTS</b>						<b>3061.49</b>

PROJECTED INCOME ABOVE COSTS (PER ACRE)  
price/ carton

		3.00	4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	Breakeven \$/carton
Cartons	600	-991	-391	209	809	1409	4.65
	700	-961	-261	439	1139	1839	4.37
per	800	-931	-131	669	1469	2269	4.16
acre	900	-901	-1	899	1799	2699	4.00
	1000	-871	129	1129	2129	3129	3.87

MIXED LETTUCE CULTURE

1987-1988

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>YIELD/ACRES (CARTONS)</u>	<u>VALUE/ACRE</u>
1986	924	633	\$4310
1985	1388	755	\$2679
1984	605	594	\$2376
1983	483	610	\$3880
1982	200	511	\$5800

YIELDS: The term "mixed lettuce" includes greenleaf, redleaf, butter and Romaine (cos) types. Most lettuce growers plant endive and escarole along with mixed lettuce. Each type has a different yield potential, but yields of 500-1300 cartons per acre are normal.

VARIETIES: The standard varieties are "Waldman's Green" (greenleaf), "Prizehead" (redleaf), "Dark Green Boston" (butterhead), "Paris Island Cos" (Romaine), "Green Curled Ruffec" (endive) and "Fullheart Botavian" (escarole).

PLANTING DATES AND CULTURE: Some growers plant Sept. 15 - Nov. 5, while others concentrate mostly on October. The crop is harvested December, January and February. The seed is normally planted at a 2-3 inch spacing using pelleted seed and a precision planter on 42 inch double row beds. Seed is planted 1/4 inch deep and sprinkler irrigated to emergence. After emergence the field is converted to furrow irrigation. The plants are thinned 6-10 inches in row depending upon variety.

FERTILIZERS: Four hundred fifty pounds of 11-52-0 per acre are broadcast prior to listing the beds. Nitrogen is sidedressed just after thinning and during later growth stages. Early season lettuce requires less nitrogen than later planted lettuce. About 150 pounds of nitrogen are used for the early season crop and 200-250 for late season lettuce.

PEST CONTROL: Watch for crickets, cutworms, salt marsh caterpillars, beet armyworms and cabbage loopers. The most serious diseases are big vein, bottom rot, sclerotinia drop and infectious yellows virus.

Consult your farm advisor for the latest pest control recommendation.

HARVESTING: Lettuce is hand cut and harvested with 24 plants per carton. Weights per carton vary according to type with red, green and butter weighing 25 pounds, Romaine 40 pounds and endive-escarole weighing 34 pounds. The cartons are cooled and shipped to markets in refrigerated trucks. The receiver pays for cooling and palletizing.