

BROCCOLI CULTURE

1980

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>YIELD/ACRE (TONS)</u>	<u>VALUE/TON</u>
1978	2,740	3.2	\$ 567
1979	2,488	1.9*	374

PLANTING DATES: Broccoli is normally planted from August 25-November 1. Harvesting begins November 25 and continues through March 5. Broccoli will germinate at temperatures of 40-95°F.

VARIETIES: Green Duke hybrid is the major variety grown. Small acreages of other varieties are being grown such as Emperor and Gem. The seed is planted 1/8 - 1/4 inch deep at 2-3 inch spacing. Broccoli is then thinned to 8" between plants.

SOILS: Well-drained soils are preferred, although broccoli may be grown on a wide range of textures. Broccoli has greater salt tolerance than does lettuce, carrots or onions.

IRRIGATION: Normally broccoli is irrigated 6 to 8 times during the season. Sprinkler irrigation is normally used for stand establishment.

FERTILIZERS: Four hundred pounds of 0-45-0 or 11-48-0 are normally broadcast prior to listing the beds. About 80 lbs. of nitrogen is applied in one sidedress application.

WEED CONTROL: Several herbicides are available for application preplant. Consult your weed control farm advisor for further information.

PESTS AND DISEASES: Cabbage loopers, armyworms, salt-marsh caterpillars, cutworms, sugar beet nematodes, flea beetles and aphids can cause extensive damage unless controlled. Downy mildew may also attack foliage and heads. For the latest information on insect control along with precautions on use of insecticides, consult your entomology farm advisor.

HARVESTING: Fields are harvested once or twice during the season. Broccoli heads are hand cut with 10-12 inch stalks and placed on a belt loader. Trucks haul the bulk bins to the shed for sorting, trimming and bunching. The broccoli is packed in 40-pound waxed fiberboard cartons containing 14-18 bunches. Broccoli requires rapid cooling to insure quality. Normally broccoli is hydrocooled and may even be iced.

*This yield is abnormally low due to a labor dispute in progress at harvest.

BROCCOLI--PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS--1980

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

Yield--350 40-lb. cartons. (7 tons projected). 85-110 days to maturity.

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR*		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre	YOUR COSTS
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars		
LAND PREPARATION							
Subsoil	18.00					\$ 18.00	
Disc 2x	6.50					13.00	
Border, cross check & break borders	11.50					11.50	
Flood		Water .75 ac/ft	3.94	1	5.50	9.44	
Fertilize	4.00	400# 11-48-0	58.00			62.00	
Disc 2x	6.50					13.00	
Triplane 2x	6.50					13.00	
List	7.25					7.25	
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						\$ 147.19	
GROWING PERIOD							
Herbicide 1x	6.00	Dacthal®	12.80			\$ 18.80	
Plant (Precision)	10.00	Hybrid seed					
		1 1/2# @65.00	97.50			107.50	
Sprinkler Irrigate						110.00	
Thin				8	44.00	44.00	
Cultivate 3x	7.50					22.50	
Fertilize & Furrow out 1x	7.50	80# N @32¢	25.60			33.10	
Weed				4	22.00	22.00	
Irrigate 8x		4 1/2 ac/ft	23.63	8	44.00	67.63	
Pest Control 5x	3.65	Insecticides	50.00			68.25	
GROWING PERIOD						\$ 493.78	
GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREPARATION COSTS						\$ 640.97	
Land Rent (new lease)						175.00	
Cash Overhead--10% of preharvest costs & land rent						81.40	
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS						\$ 897.37	
HARVEST							
Custom harvest, pack haul to cooler		350 40-lb. cartons @3.40				\$1190.00	
TOTAL ALL COSTS						\$2087.37	

Cost per 40-lb. carton = \$5.96 @350 ctn/Ac

* Includes shovel labor, pipe setting and miscellaneous tractor work.

INCOME ABOVE ALL COSTS PER ACRE

Price Per Carton

Cartons Per Acre	Price Per Carton				
	\$ 4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	8.00
250	- 747	- 497	- 247	+ 3	+ 253
300	- 717	- 417	- 117	+ 183	+ 483
350	- 687	- 337	+ 13	+ 363	+ 713
400	- 657	- 257	+ 143	+ 543	+ 943
450	- 627	- 177	+ 273	+ 723	+ 1173