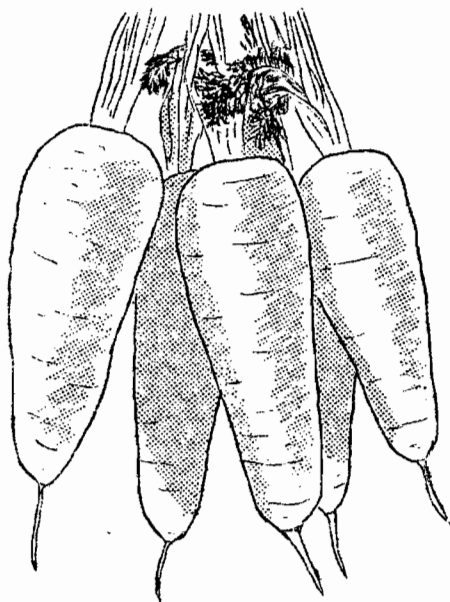


carrots
sample costs
and
production



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

Fact Sheet No. 17
UC Cooperative Extension

CARROTS--SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

ITEMS	SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
LAND PREPARATION	
Plow 1x	\$ 8.00
Disc 2x	4.00
Float 1x	1.50
Border	1.00
Irrigate 1x	1.00
Knock down borders	.75
Disc 1x	2.00
Float 1x	1.50
Fertilize (pre-plant)	2.00
List	3.00
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION	\$ 24.75
CULTURAL LABOR AND POWER	
Mulch beds	2.25
Planting	2.75
Cultivate 2x	6.00
Fertilization 1x	2.00
Weed control 1x (oil)	2.50
Irrigation 8x	7.00
Pest control 3-4x	4.00
TOTAL LABOR AND POWER	\$ 26.50
MATERIALS	
Water 3'	6.00
Seed - 3 lbs./acre	7.00
Fertilizer (120 N + P ₂ O ₅)	30.00
Insecticide	25.00
Weed oil	13.50
TOTAL MATERIALS	\$ 81.50
CASH OVERHEAD	
General expense 8% of the above	10.72
LANT RENT	60.00
TOTAL ALL COSTS	\$204.47

ACREAGE

During 1958-1959 5,722 acres of carrots were grown in Imperial County. In previous years as high as 10,000 acres were planted to carrots.

YIELDS

Average yield is 250 crates per acre. Yields of 500 crates or more per acre have been reported by some growers. To get high yields, there must be a very low percentage of malformed (pronged) carrots.

Several factors may promote pronging. These are: misplacement of fertilizer, close cultivation, carrots following sesbania, nematode injury, insect injury, certain diseases, and soil structure.

VARIETIES

Varieties most extensively used by Imperial County growers are Imperator and Long Imperator. Difference between the two varieties is in length. They have the same color and bunching quality. Long Imperator tends to be a little earlier than other varieties.

SOILS

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

the salty side are not desirable for carrot production.

LAND PREPARATION

Crop history will determine the type of land preparation followed by grower. (See table.)

PLANTING DATE

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

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.

When plants are well established, the irrigation schedule should be set up to give maximum growth. Weather and soil type are factors that will help determine when to irrigate.

FERTILIZERS

Previous crop history will help in determining fertilizer requirements. Nitrogen is the one that is most often required for maximum yields. Phosphate, when used, is usually applied ahead of planting.

One hundred twenty pounds of nitrogen and 150 pounds of phosphate are usually ample.

PESTS AND DISEASES

Crickets, grasshoppers, and cutworms can be a problem when the seedlings emerge. Later in the season spider mites and aphids can be a problem. Frequent field inspections are important to determine whether control measures are necessary.

Diseases that can be a problem in the valley are nematodes, damping-off, and root rot. Nematodes can be controlled by fumigation and damping-off by seed treatment. Root rot is usually not a problem where good cultural practices have been followed.

For control recommendations consult the University of California Vegetable Crop Pest and Disease Control Guide for Imperial County. Copies are available at the Farm Advisors' office. UC Cooperative Extension

HARVESTING

Carrots are removed from the beds by tractor and carrot lifter.

How the carrots are to be marketed will determine handling in the field.

Carrots sold in bunches with tops are graded and bunched in the field and hauled to the shed for cleaning and crating.

Cello-pack carrots are hauled from the field without tops in burlap bags and cleaned and packed in the shed. Canning carrots are topped in the field and hauled to the processor.

The trend in carrot marketing is toward cello-pack.

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