

IMPERIAL

LETTUCE--PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS--1982-1983

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--500 cartons per acre (13.00 tons @ 52 lbs. per carton). 90-110 days to maturity.

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR*		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
LAND PREPARATION						
Subsoil	24.00					\$ 24.00
Disc 2x	8.00					16.00
Border, cross check & break borders	12.00					12.00
Flood		Water 1/4 ac/ft	5.63	1	5.50	11.13
Fertilize	6.00	400# 11-48-0	52.00			58.00
Disc 2x	8.00					16.00
Triplane 2x	8.50					17.00
List	10.00					10.00
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						\$ 164.13

GROWING PERIOD						
Incorporate beds	18.00	Herbicide	13.00			\$ 31.00
		Balan® + Chemhoe®				120.00
Sprinkler irrigate						66.50
Plant (Precision)	14.50	Seed 1/4# & coating	52.00			71.50
Thin				13	71.50	30.00
Cultivate 3x	10.00					81.20
Fertilize & furrow out 2x	10.00	180# N @ 34#	61.20			38.50
Weed				7	38.50	64.75
Irrigate 6x		Water 3/4 ac/ft	26.25	7	38.50	146.50
Insect control 7x	4.50	Insecticides	115.00			18.00
Stubble disc 1x	18.00					
GROWING PERIOD						\$ 667.95

GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREPARATION COSTS	\$ 832.08
Land Rent (net acres)	200.00
Cash Overhead--12% of preharvest costs & land rent	123.84
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS	\$1155.92

HARVEST COSTS	
Custom harvest: cut, pack, haul, cool & sell 500 cartons @ \$3.00/ctn.	\$1500.00
TOTAL ALL COSTS	\$2655.92

Cost per carton = \$5.31 @ 500 ctn/ac
Cost per carton = \$4.64 @ 700 ctn/ac

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

YEAR	ACRES	YIELD/ACRE (TONS)	VALUE/TON
1977	41170	14.0	\$ 133
1978	40860	12.2	153
1979	44743	11.2	347
1980	46110	7.9	132
1981	37562	10.4	141

PLANTING DATES: Plantings extend continually from mid-September to mid-November. Early plantings are harvested in early December, while October plantings are harvested in January and February. Most of the lettuce is planted with pelleted seed and planted with a Stanhay planter. Vacuum air planters are also being used. Seeds are planted 2-3 inches apart in row.

VARIETIES: The date of planting affects the variety grown since the season progresses from extreme heat to cool days and freezing nights, then back to moderately high temperatures in early Spring. Varieties commonly planted are: Empire, Climax, Winterhaven, Red Coach 74, Vanguard 75 and Vanguard. Early plantings mature in about 90 days while later ones require 120 or more days.