

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE CELERY IN MONTEREY COUNTY - 1980

By J. W. Huffman and E. A. Yeary

YIELD: 1,000 crates (60 lbs.) per acre  
 HARVEST: June through September  
 PLANT-TRANSPLANT: February through Mid-August

TOTAL LABOR COSTS/HR. <sup>1</sup>			HOURLY TRACTOR COSTS		
			Cash Costs	Depreciation	Interest
C1. I Equip. Operator	8.58	80 h.p. Crawler Diesel	13.00	4.89	2.67
C1. II Equip. Operator	8.44	60 h.p. Wheel Diesel	4.85	1.84	1.10
Irrigator	7.39				
Other Labor	7.28				

Operation	Tractor Used	Hours Acre	Labor	Fuel & Repairs	Contract and Materials	Total Acre
<b>CULTURAL:</b>						
Manure, 3.5 tons @ \$14.00/ton spread						49.00
Subsoil (1/2 ton celery)	C-80	0.62	5.24	9.44		14.81
Disc & roll 3x	C-80	0.69	5.82	10.83		16.65
Chisel 2x	C-80	1.0	8.44	14.38		22.82
Level 2x	C-80	0.52	4.39	8.48		12.87
List & preplant fert.					Contract @ \$7.00/ac., 600 lbs. 6-20-20 @ \$87.00	94.00
Shape beds & roll	WD-60	0.25	2.11	1.28		3.39
Plant - 4 bed <sup>4</sup>	WD-60	0.5	4.22	3.40	Seed 14R coated seed @ \$14.00/lb.	19.87
Herbicide <sup>2</sup>					Contract, preplant \$8.25/ac/ appli. & \$12.00 materials, post plant \$10.00/ac/appli. and \$37.50 materials	67.75
Irrigation 12x (5x sprinkler, 7x furrow)		38.75	286.36		3.0 ac. ft. @ \$24.00/ac.ft. \$4.00 booster pump	362.36
Thin <sup>3</sup>		21.0	152.88			152.88
Fertilizer - Side-dress 2x					Contract @ \$6.25/ac./appli. 250 lbs. N @ .32/lb.	92.50
Fertilizer-Irrigation					Application @ \$3.25/ac. 40 lbs. N @ 0.32/lb.	16.05
Insecticide applications					Contract @ \$7.00/ac./appli. Materials \$152.50 (includes fungicides)	187.50
Cultivations 7x	WD-60	1.75	15.02	10.47		25.49
Hoe & Weed		8.0	58.24			58.24
Miscellaneous (incl. setup & moving)		4.0	31.38	8.27		39.65

**CULTURAL AND MATERIAL COSTS** 1,235.83

Overhead:		
Business Costs: Office and business expense @ 12% of cultural costs		148.15
Taxes: Equipment		5.00
Rent: \$650.00 per acre, 2/3 to celery		433.33

**OVERHEAD COSTS** 586.48

Harvest: \$3.50 per crate - inclues cutting, hauling, crate, packing, and selling charge		3,500.00
--	--	----------

**TOTAL CULTURAL, OVERHEAD AND HARVESTING COSTS** 5,322.31

Annual Costs:	Investment	Per Acre	Depreciation	Interest - 12%
2/3 charged to celery. Tractors are on an hourly basis	Buildings	\$ 60.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.60
	Irrig. System	300.00	30.00	18.00
	Tractors	190.00	18.44	10.31
	Equipment	150.00	15.00	9.00
		\$700.00	\$ 66.44	\$ 40.91
	2/3 year (except tractors and equipment) to celery			81.15

<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</b>	<b>5,403.26</b>
<b>TOTAL COST PER CRATE</b>	<b>5.40</b>

(see reverse side)

Management has not been included as a cost of production in this study.

- /1 Labor costs per hour include fringe benefits paid by the farmer. FDI, social security, workmen's compensation, unemployment, health plan, vacation, holidays, and pension plan.
- /2 Herbicides - costs are for a direct seeded planting. If celery is transplanted herbicide costs change to one application @ \$8.25/acre and \$37.50 for materials. For herbicide materials, rates and application consult a Pest Control Advisor or contact your local Agriculture Extension Office.
- /3 About half of the celery acreage in the Salinas Valley is transplanted. If this practice is followed, soil preparation, listing, and bed sloping remain unchanged. Seeding is eliminated and herbicide applications are changed (as in /2 above). Transplants are either produced in farmers seed beds at about \$3 to \$3.50 per thousand or from greenhouses at about \$16.00 per thousand. At a 6 to 7 inch spacing, about 46,000 plants are required per acre. Labor costs to transplant are about \$235.00 per acre.

SAMPLE COSTS OF PRODUCTION AT VARYING YIELDS

YIELD: CRATES PER ACRE	900	1,000	1,100	1,200
CULTURAL & MATERIALS	1,234.58	1,234.58	1,234.58	1,234.58
OVERHEAD	586.48	586.48	586.48	586.48
HARVEST	3,150.00	3,500.00	3,850.00	4,200.00
ANNUAL COSTS	81.15	81.15	81.15	81.15
COST PER ACRE	5,053.46	5,403.26	5,753.46	6,103.46
COST PER CRATE	5.61	5.40	5.23	5.09