

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE CAULIFLOWER FOR FRESH MARKET SALE IN MONTEREY COUNTY - 1976

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

Yield: 500 cartons per acre (Wt. 25 pounds)
 Harvest: Mid March through December
 Plant: January through December

	Total Labor Costs/Hour ^{1/}		Hourly Tractor Costs		
			Cash Costs	Depreciation	Interest
Cl. I Equipment Operator	4.85	80 h.p. Crawler Diesel	7.06	3.13	2.34
Cl. II Equipment Operator	4.73	80 h.p. Wheel Diesel	3.44	1.63	.82
Other Labor	3.90	55 h.p. Wheel Diesel	2.26	1.12	.56

Operation	Tractor Used	Hours Acre	Labor	Fuel & Repairs	Contract and Materials	Total Acre
CULTURAL						
Cover Crop					Proportion of cost to cauliflower	30.00
Disc and Roll 3x	C-80	0.69	3.26	4.87		8.13
Chisel 2x	C-80	1.0	4.73	7.06		11.79
Landplane 2x	C-80	0.52	2.46	3.67		6.13
List & Preplant Fertilizer					Contract @ \$4.50/Ac 500# 13-13-13 \$45.75	50.25
Shape Beds	WD-80	0.25	1.18	0.57		1.75
Plant-4 Bed Planter	WD-80	0.5	2.37	1.13	Seed ½ lb \$13.50	17.00
Herbicide 2/					Contract @ \$6.05/Ac Materials @ \$8.50/Ac	14.55
Irrigation 7x (3 Sprinkler, 4 Furrow)		10.0	39.00	8.00	2-½ Ac Ft @ \$7.50 per Ac Ft, \$2.00 Booster Pump	67.75
Thin		9.5				37.05
Side Dress Fertilizer 2x					Contract \$3.75/Ac 200# N @ \$0.26 per lb.	59.50
Insecticides 2x					Contract @ \$5.00/Ac Materials \$13.00/Ac	23.00
Cultivate 5x	WD-55	2.0	9.46	4.52		13.98
Hoe and Weed		8.0	31.20			31.20
Miscellaneous (includes setup and moving)		4.0	15.60	5.50		21.10
TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS						393.18

OVERHEAD

Business Costs: Office and Business Expense, etc, @ 7% of Cultural Costs	27.49
Taxes: Equipment	9.10
Rent: \$350.00 per acre, 6 mos. to cauliflower	175.00
TOTAL OVERHEAD COSTS	211.59

Harvest: Contract @ \$2.80 per carton (cost includes harvesting, hauling, packing, carton and sales charge)	1400.00
TOTAL CULTURAL, OVERHEAD AND HARVESTING COSTS	2004.77

ANNUAL COSTS	Investment	Per Acre	Depreciation	Interest - 8%	
1/2 charged to cauliflower.	Buildings	50.00	2.50	2.00	
Tractors are on an hourly basis.	Irrigation System	90.00	9.00	3.60	
	Portable Irrig. System	25.00	2.50	1.00	
	Tractors	150.00	10.00	6.71	
	Equipment	100.00	10.00	4.00	
		415.00	34.00	17.31	
	6 Months (Except Tractors and Equipment) to Cauliflower				41.01

TOTAL COST PER ACRE	2045.78
TOTAL COST PER CARTON (BASED ON 500 CARTONS/ACRE YIELD)	4.09

SAMPLE COSTS OF PRODUCTION AT VARYING YIELDS

YIELD CARTONS PER ACRE	400	450	500	550	600
Cost to Grow per Acre	645.78	645.78	645.78	645.78	645.78
Cost to Harvest	1120.00	1260.00	1400.00	1540.00	1680.00
Total Cost per Acre	1765.78	1905.78	2045.78	2185.78	2325.78
Cost per Carton	4.41	4.23	4.09	3.97	3.88

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, workman's compensation, unemployment, health plan, vacation, holidays, and pension plan.
- 2/ Dacthal® or Tok® pre-emergence herbicide. Selection usually based on weed types and soil texture. Post emergence Tok® 50WP when cauliflower is in the 2 to 3 true leaf stage. If a farmer desires to incorporate the herbicide prior to planting, Treflan® may be used.

For rates and application techniques, follow label instructions or contact your local Agricultural Extension Office.