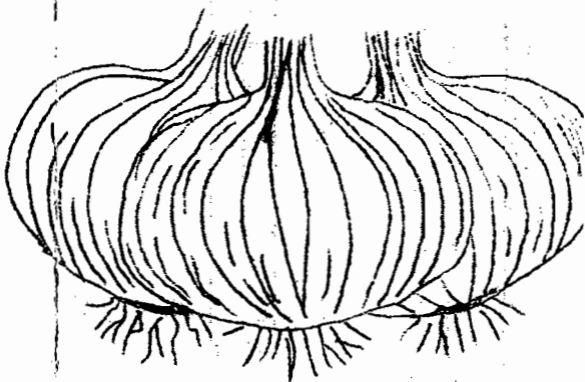


dehydrator onion
sample costs
and
production



Agricultural Extension
University of California
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Cost Data Sheet No. 18

DEHYDRATOR ONIONS--PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Hand labor at \$3.75 per hour (\$3.00 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, transportation, supervision and fringe benefits).

Yield - 15 tons. 150 + days to maturity.

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS Type	HAND LABOR*		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
			Cost	Hours Dollars	
LAND PREPARATION					
Subsoil	\$ 12.50				\$ 12.50
Disc 2x	4.50				9.00
Border & break border	4.50				4.50
Flood		Water .75 ft/A	2.63	1 3.75*	6.38
Fertilize	3.00	400# 11-48-0	40.00		43.00
Disc 2x	4.50				9.00
Landplane 2x	5.00				10.00
List	5.00				5.00
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION					\$ 99.38
GROWING PERIOD					
Plant	6.50	Seed 2#			6.50
Herbicide 2x	3.00	Dacthal® & sulfuric acid	53.00		59.00
Cultivate 4x	5.00				20.00
Fertilize - side-dress 2x	4.50	300# N @ 25¢	75.00		84.00
Weed 2x				17 63.75	63.75
Sprinkler Irrigate		Rent	35.00	9 33.75	68.75
Irrigate 12x		Water 4.5 ac ft	15.75	15 56.25*	72.00
Pest Control 2x	3.00	Pesticides	10.00		16.00
GROWING PERIOD					\$ 390.00
GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREP COSTS					\$ 489.38
Land Rent (new lease)					150.00
Cash Overhead - 12% of preharvest costs and land rent					76.61
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS					\$ 715.99

HARVEST COSTS: None - Production contract to pay 52.00/ton return to grower.

Cost per ton to produce = \$47.67

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

YEAR	ACRES	YIELD/ACRE	VALUE/TON
1970	600	10.00	\$ 31.00
1971	500	12.60	32.54
1972	1230	13.00	32.75
1973	1680	13.10	33.64
1974	3000	12.00	45.72

PLANTING DATE: Contracting companies recommend the planting date to the grower and supply him with the seed. Planting dates may differ with variety but the current 75-76 crop will be planted between October 25 - November 20.

VARIETIES: Most dehydrator onions are white creole derivatives selected for a high soluble solids content. The seed is supplied by the dehydrator.

SOILS: Onions require soils with a low salt content. Sandy or medium textured soils are the best adapted.

IRRIGATION: Until two or three weeks before intended harvest, onions should never suffer for lack of water. Weather and soil conditions determine the number of irrigations. Seven to 12 times are normal. Irrigation costs listed include the use of sprinklers for germination. Also included are costs for shovel work, pipe setting and grading.

FERTILIZERS

Generally, between 200 and 250 lbs, of actual nitrogen per acre and 144 and 200 lbs of P_2O_5 are applied. All P_2O_5 and 33 to 50 lbs of nitrogen are usually broadcast before listing followed by two sidedressings of nitrogen.

PESTS AND DISEASES

Mites, thrips, armyworms, leaf-miners, maggots, downy mildew and nematodes may be problems. Pink root is a soil-borne disease affecting onions. Varieties resistant to pink root are available.

HARVESTING

The onions are machine topped, undercut and covered with a fine layer of soil to cure before harvesting. The onions are then machine dug and lifted to a sorter to remove clods and excess debris before loading on a truck and trailer for shipment to the dehydrator plant. All harvesting costs are borne by contractor.

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