

cabbage
sample costs
and
production



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

Cost Data Sheet No. 12

CABBAGE--SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Hand labor at \$2.25 per hour (\$2.10 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, transportation, supervision and fringe benefits).

Yield - 500 50# cartons per acre. (12.5 tons)

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
LAND PREPARATION						
Plow or subsoil	\$9.00					\$ 9.00
Disc 2x	2.50					5.00
Border & break border	1.00					1.00
Flood		water .75 ac ft	1.73	1	2.25	3.98
Fertilize	1.50	400# 11-48-0	19.00			20.50
Disc 2x	2.50					5.00
Landplane 2x	2.75					5.50
List	3.50					3.50
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						\$53.48
GROWING PERIOD						
Incorporate beds	6.50	herbicide	10.00			16.50
Plant	3.00	seed 2# @ 3.45	6.90			9.90
Thin				15	33.75	33.75
Cultivate 3x	3.00					9.00
Fertilize - side-dress 2x	3.00	200# N @ 12¢	24.00			30.00
Hoe				7.5	16.88	16.88
Irrigate 10x		5 ac ft @ 2.30	11.50	9	20.25	31.75
Pest Control 6x	1.75	insecticides	20.00			30.50
GROWING PERIOD						\$178.28
GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREPARATION COSTS						\$231.76
PREHARVEST COSTS						
Land Rent						70.00
Cash Overhead - 15% of preharvest costs and land rent						45.26
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS						\$347.02
HARVEST						
Custom harvest, pack, haul to cooler		500 50# ctn. @ 1.35				\$ 675.00
TOTAL ALL COSTS						\$1022.02

Cost per carton = \$2.04

The Agricultural Commissioner's reports show seasonal average price per ton during the past five years varied from a low of \$50.54 in 1971 to a high of \$94.70 in 1970.

YIELDS

Range from 350 to 400 50-pound cartons per acre. Yields of 700 cartons per acre are occasionally produced. Total yields are influenced by market conditions at harvest time. Several cuttings are not unusual.

PLANTING

Most acreage is planted from September 10-25 on beds with 42 inch centers, two rows per bed. Seed is planted 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep at 2 pounds per acre. Plants thinned 12 to 14 inches apart. Run rows in a north-south direction.

VARIETIES

Only early maturing varieties for the fresh market are planted. Varietal strains of Copenhagen Market, Golden Acre and Jet Pak predominate. Red Acre and Round Red Dutch are sometimes grown on a very limited acreage.

SOIL

A medium textured soil with good drainage and water holding capacity is desirable. Lighter soils are easier to manage during the colder months than heavy ones. Cabbage is moderately salt tolerant.

IRRIGATION

The "germination irrigation"--the irrigation following planting--should thoroughly soak the beds. At no time after thinning should plants be stressed for water. Normally, 6 to 8 irrigations are adequate. Sprinkler irrigation may be used. Normal costs are \$30.00-\$70.00 per acre. The irrigation labor costs also include shovel work, pipe setting and grader expense.

FERTILIZERS

All the phosphate should be broadcast before listing. Apply the additional nitrogen in two sidedressings.

WEED CONTROL

Several herbicides are registered for use on cabbage. These are applied preemergence to the cabbage.

PESTS AND DISEASES

Cabbage diseases cause relatively little damage in Imperial County. Intumescences can occur as wart-like projections on leaves as the result of sand blasting.

Cabbage loopers, armyworms, salt marsh caterpillars, cutworms, sugar beet nematode, flea beetles and aphids can cause extensive damage unless controlled. For the latest information on insect control along with precautions on the use of insecticides, consult your farm advisor.

HARVESTING

Fields are harvested from one to several times December through March.

Heads are either cut, trimmed, and packed in the field, or cut, loaded into wagons, and hauled to local packing sheds.

Prepared by
Imperial County
Agricultural Extension Service
Staff

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