

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 \$3.00 per hour (\$2.53 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, transportation, supervision and fringe benefits).

Yield - 500 50# cartons per acre. (12.5 tons) 60-100 days to maturity.

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
<b>LAND PREPARATION</b>						
Plow or subsoil	\$12.00					\$ 12.00
Disc 2x	3.50					7.00
Border & break						
Border	4.00					4.00
Flood		Water .75 ac ft	2.00	1	2.00	4.00
Fertilize	2.50	400# 11-48-0	46.00			48.50
Disc 2x	3.50					7.00
Landplane 2x	4.00					8.00
List	4.50					4.50
<b>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION</b>						<b>\$ 95.00</b>
<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>						
Herbicide 1x	2.50		15.50			18.00
Plant (Precision)	7.00	Seed 2# @ 6.00	12.00			19.00*
Thin				15	45.00	45.00
Cultivate 3x	4.00					12.00
Fertilize - side-dress 3x	4.00	200# N @ 20¢	40.00			52.00
Weed				7	21.00	21.00
Sprinkler Irrigate		Rent	30.00	10	30.00	60.00
Irrigate 8x		4 ac ft	10.80	20	60.00	78.80
Pest Control 10x	3.00	Insecticides	65.00			95.00
<b>GROWING PERIOD</b>						<b>\$400.80</b>
<b>GROWING PERIOD &amp; LAND PREP COSTS</b>						<b>\$495.80</b>
Land Rent						125.00
Cash Overhead - 10% of preharvest costs and land rent						62.08
<b>TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS</b>						<b>\$682.88</b>
<b>HARVEST</b>						
Custom harvest, pack, haul to cooler		500 50# ctn @ \$1.75				\$875.00
<b>TOTAL ALL COSTS</b>						<b>\$1557.88</b>

Cost per carton = \$3.11

\* For possible additional costs see cabbage cultivar, page 11.

**YIELDS**

1973 average 14.04 tons/acre. (550 cartons) Yields of 700 cartons per acre are occasionally produced. Total yields are influenced by market conditions at harvest time. Several cuttings are not unusual. 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. There were 470 acres of cabbage grown in 1973.

**PLANTING**

Most acreage is planted from September 10-25 on beds with 42 inch centers and 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. Cabbage seed will germinate between 40-95 F. (Optimum 85 F).

## \*VARIETIES

Only early maturing varieties for the fresh market are planted. Varietal strains of Copenhagen Market, Banner and Headstart 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 \$45.00-\$70.00 per acre. The irrigation labor costs listed 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 pre-emergence 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 nematodes, 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 cut, trimmed and packed in the field, or cut, loaded into wagons, and hauled to field packing sheds.

Prepared by  
Imperial County  
Agricultural Extension Staff  
Revised August 1974

-----  
The University of California's  
Agricultural Extension programs  
are available to all, without regard  
to race, color, or national origin.  
-----

Co-operative Extension work in  
Agriculture and Home Economics  
Division of Agricultural Sciences,  
University of California and  
United States Department of Agri-  
culture co-operating. Distributed  
in furtherance of the Acts of Con-  
gress of May 8, and June 30 1914.  
George B. Alcorn, Director, Cali-  
fornia Agricultural Extension.