

Agricultural Briefs

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE CANNING TOMATOES - 1975

Soil Requirements: Grown on a wide variety of soils. Must be free of injurious salts, and disease, four feet or more in depth, and have good moisture holding capacity. Should not be grown where Rhizoctonia, Fusarium, Verticillium or Phytophthora have been a problem.

Planting Dates: February thru May. Schedule planting to assure about the same acreage available for harvest each week. Plant when the true leaf is about 0.5 inches long in the seedlings of the previous planting.

Harvest Dates: August, September or until stopped by rain in the fall, usually October.

Varieties: VF-7879, VF-317, 13-L

Seeding Rate: .5 to 1.0 pounds per acre equivalent to 12 to 20 seeds per row with rows 4.5-5 feet apart. Thin to 9-12 inches between plants.

Fertilizer: Preplant nitrogen of 100 to 150 pounds/acre. A combination of 8-10 pounds of nitrogen and 8 to 10 pounds of phosphorus placed 1 inch to the side and 1 or 2 inches below the seed will help to get all plants off to a good start. Nitrogen applications should be limited to about 80 pounds with the last application no later than thinning time to allow the plants to become deficient in nitrogen before harvest.

Irrigation: Plants must have adequate water at all times but the soil moisture should be exhausted at harvest time. 4-5 acre feet of water usually applied. Over-irrigation will cause root pruning and disease.

Weed Control: Tillam applied preplant incorporated will give good control of nut-sedge, and fair control of H. nightshade. Devrinol and Trefmid will give good control of annual weeds when applied preplant incorporated in a band. Treflan will give good control of annual weeds when applied layby after thinning.

Insect Control: Tomato fruit worms require insecticide applications. Control of root-knot nematodes requires a rotation involving use of non-host crops between tomatoes, and application of a nematocide.

Disease Control: Root disease can be controlled somewhat by carefully controlling irrigations. Irrigate every other row, shorter runs, etc. Black mold can be controlled by 2 to 3 applications of Difolitan.

Repening: Etherel can be applied at 5 to 20 percent pink to red fruit showing. Ripening can be increased 7 to 10 days.

Tomatoes @ \$60/ton **SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE CANNING TOMATOES**
 Gross: \$1500/Ac. Sacramento County 1975
 Net: \$439.25

Based on 200 acres of tomatoes on a 1,000 acre ranch. Yield: 25 tons. Labor rates including fringe benefits \$3.50 and \$2.60 per hour.

OPERATION	Hours per acre	Cash & labor cost per acre				Total
		Labor	Fuel & repairs	Materials Kind & Quantity	Cost	
Cultural Costs						
Fall: Plow	.2	.70	1.35			2.05
Disc	.3	1.05	2.10			3.15
landplane 2X	.3	1.05	2.05			3.10
subsoil or chisel 2X	1.2	4.20	8.40			12.60

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS, Division of Agricultural Sciences, University of California, U.S. Department of Agriculture and County of Sacramento cooperating

OPERATION	Hours		Cash & Labor cost per acre		Total
	per Acre	Labor	Fuel & repairs	Materials Kind & Quantity Cost	
Spring-- Disk 2X	.4	1.40	2.80		4.20
springtooth	.2	.70	1.10		1.80
list or ridge & fert.	.3	1.05	.90	10 gal. @ \$.93/gal.	9.30
Preplant + Herbicide (bd. cast)	Tillam 2X			rent tag-a-long @ .75	12.00
(nutsedge & H. nightshade)					28.85
Plant (2 men) + Band Herbicide	.4	1.40	2.70	1.8# @ \$4/lb	7.20
(Devrinol or Trefmid)				Seed 1 lb. @ \$15	15.00
				Rent tag-a-long	.75
				Devrinol \$2.62	
				Trefmid \$5.26	29.67
Cultivate	.5	1.75	2.20		3.95
Thin	.4	1.40	1.25		2.65
Layby Herbicide (Treflan)					15.00
Rolling cultivator	.2	.70	.90		1.60
Cultivate & Furrow 2X	.5	1.75	2.40		4.15
Hoe	9.5	24.70			24.70
Ditch, open & Close 3X	.1	.35	.65		1.00
Irrigate 7X	10.5	27.30	.50	5 ac.ft. @ \$4/ac.ft.	\$20
Fertilize	.3	.90	.80	75 lb. N @ \$.20	\$15
				Rent Tag-a-long	.75
Insect control 4X	.9	2.45	3.35	Material	35.75
				Air application 1X	8.00
Etherel (ripening agent @ 3.5 pts/ac)					15.00
Snow (Sunburn)					11.00
Fungicide (mold control					
difolitan)					
Miscellaneous	.8	2.75			2.75
Additional charges seasonal					
labor		7.00			7.00
Crop loan interest					3.75
TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS		83.30	34.15		344.45
Harvest Costs					
Harvester 15 people	2.7	117.60	25.20	(\$18/ton Custom Harvest)	142.80
Auxiliary service 5 men	3.0	49.35	17.80		53.25
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS		166.00	43.00		53.25
Cash Overhead					
misc., office, etc.					27.10
Taxes on equipment					5.90
Rent				20% of 25 ton @ \$54	270.00
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD					303.00
TOTAL CASH COST		250.25	77.15		472.50
Management 5% of 25 ton @ \$54					67.50
ANNUAL COST					
<u>Investment</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>		<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Interest 8%</u>	
Equipment	\$590		\$59.00	\$23.60	82.60
Total					
TOTAL COST PER ACRE					1060.75
Cost per ton @ 25 ton yield					42.43

Prepared by J.P. Orr and P.S. Parsons