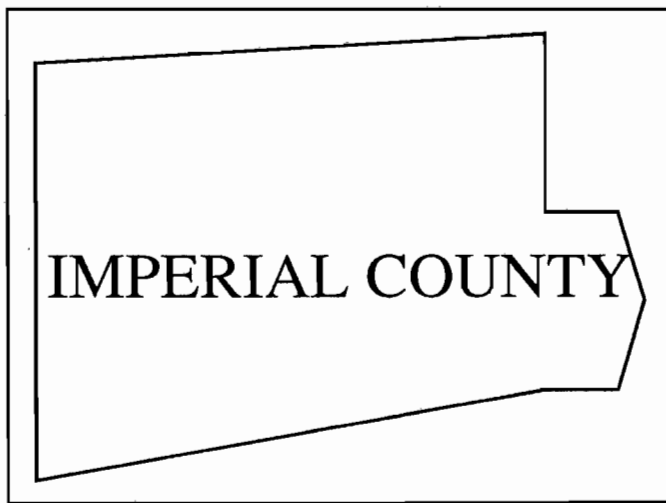


MIXED LETTUCE PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS

LT-SI-90-2

1989-1990



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Mixed Lettuce Projected Production Costs 1989-1990

Mechanical operation at custom rates. Hand labor at \$5.75 per hour (\$4.50 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, transportation, supervision and fringe benefits).

Yield--700 cartons per acre 90-120 days to maturity. Romaine lettuce

OPERATION	CUSTOM RATE	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
LAND PREPARATION						
Stubble disc	18.25					18.25
Subsoil	29.25					29.25
Disc 1x	9.50					9.50
Landplane 2x	10.00					20.00
Border, cross check & break borders	15.00					15.00
Flood		Water 1/2 ac/ft	5.50	1	5.75	11.25
Fertilize	6.00	450# 11-52-0	61.00			67.00
Disc 2x	9.50					19.00
Triplane 1x	8.75					8.75
List	11.50					11.50
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						209.50
GROWING PERIOD						
Precision plant	14.50	Coated seed	62.00			76.50
Spray herbicide	8.00	Herbicide	10.20			18.20
Sprinkler irrigate						135.00
Thin				10	57.50	57.50
Cultivate 3x	10.75					32.25
Fertilize & furrow out 2x	10.50	120# N @ .31	37.20			58.20
Water-run fertilizer		60# N @ .31	18.00			18.00
Hand weed 1x				12	69.00	69.00
Irrigate 6x		Water 3 1/2 ac/ft	38.50	7	40.25	78.75
Insect control 7x	5.00	Insecticides	72.00			107.00
Stubble disc	18.25					18.25
TOTAL GROWING PERIOD						668.65
GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREPARATION COSTS						878.15
Land Rent (net acres)						200.00
Cash Overhead-----		12% of preharvest costs & land rent				129.38
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS						1207.53
HARVEST COSTS						
Custom harvest: cut, pack, sell and haul to cooler		700 cartons @	2.70	per carton		1890.00
TOTAL ALL COSTS						3097.53

PROJECTED INCOME ABOVE COSTS (PER ACRE)

	price/ carton					Breakeven \$/carton
	3.00	4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	
Cartons	600	-1028	-428	172	772	1372
per acre	700	-998	-298	402	1102	1802
	800	-968	-168	632	1432	2232
	900	-938	-38	862	1762	2662
	1000	-908	92	1092	2092	3092

MIXED LETTUCE CULTURE
1989-1990

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>YIELD/ACRE (CARTONS)</u>	<u>VALUE/ACRE</u>
1988	2336	588	\$9900
1987	1772	799	3749
1986	924	633	4310
1985	1388	755	2679
1984	605	594	2376

YIELDS: The term "mixed lettuce" includes greenleaf, redleaf, butter and Romaine (cos) types. Some lettuce growers plant endive and escarole along with mixed lettuce. Each type has a different yield potential, but yields of 500-1300 cartons per acre are normal.

VARIETIES: The standard varieties are "Royal Green", "Genegreen", "Waldman's Green", "Esmeralda" (greenleaf); and "Prizehead", "Deep Red", "Big Red", "Royal Red" (redleaf); "Dark Green Boston" (butterhead); and "Paris Island Cos", "Green Towers" (Romaine).

PLANTING DATES AND CULTURE: Some growers plant September 15 - November 5, while others concentrate mostly on October plantings. The crop is harvested December, January and February. The seed is normally planted at a 2-3 inch spacing using pelleted seed and a precision planter on 42 inch double row beds. Seed is planted 1/4 inch deep and sprinkler irrigated to emergence. After emergence the field is converted to furrow irrigation. The plants are thinned 6-10 inches in row depending upon variety.

FERTILIZERS: Four hundred fifty pounds of 11-52-0 per acre are broadcast prior to listing the beds. Nitrogen is sidedressed just after thinning and during later growth stages. Early season lettuce requires less nitrogen than later planted lettuce. About 150 pounds of nitrogen are used for the early season crop and 200-250 pounds for late season lettuce.

PEST CONTROL: Watch for leafminers, crickets, cutworms, salt marsh caterpillars, beet armyworms and cabbage loopers. The most serious diseases are big vein, bottom rot, sclerotinia drop and infectious yellows virus.

Consult your farm advisor for the latest pest control recommendations.

HARVESTING: Lettuce is hand cut and harvested with 24 plants per carton. Weights per carton vary according to type. Redleaf, greenleaf, and butter weigh 25 pounds, and Romaine carton weigh 40 pounds. The cartons are cooled and shipped to markets in refrigerated trucks. The receiver pays for cooling and palletizing.

GUIDELINES TO PRODUCTION COSTS AND PRACTICES
IMPERIAL COUNTY CROPS, CIRCULAR 104
 1989 - 1990

CUSTOM RATE CHARGES

HEAVY TRACTOR WORK

	<u>PRICE/ACRE</u>
Plow	\$ 24.75
Subsoil 2nd Gear	29.25
Disc, Regular	9.50
Disc, Stubble	18.25
Float	8.25
Triplane	8.75
List, Regular	11.50
List, and Rerun 80" Melon Beds	22.00
Reshape 80" Melon Beds	10.00
Landplane	10.00
Chisel	20.75

PLANTING AND CULTIVATING

Plant and Shape Melon Beds	16.75
Precision Plant 42" Beds	14.50
Plant Carrots	13.75
Plant Onions	16.75
Cultivate 4-Row 42" Beds	10.75
Cultivate Melon Beds	14.00
Spike and Furrow Out (2 row)	10.50
Lilliston	9.50
Furrow out alone	8.00
Move N-Side 80" Beds for Irrigation	9.50

INCORPORATING, BORDER AND BED WORK

Power Incorporate herbicides	20.25
Border, Cross checks and Break Borders	15.00
Bust Melon Beds	9.00
Roll Beds	5.00

FERTILIZER APPLICATION

Broadcast Fertilizer	6.00
Inject Fertilizer (Flat)	9.00
Fertilize and Furrow Out 42" Beds	10.50
Fertilize and Furrow Out 80" Beds	10.50

IRRIGATION

Custom Sprinkle	135.00-145.00
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MISCELLANEOUS

Motor Grader/Hour	42.75
Chop Broccoli, Corn Stalks, Etc.	10.00
Water truck/Hour	34.00
Cultipacker	6.00
Ground Spray Pesticides (4 Row)	7.00
Aerial Spray 5 Gal. (Insecticides)	4.50
Aerial Spray 10 Gal. (Fungicides)	5.00