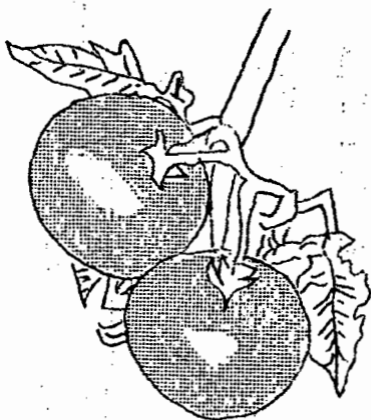


tomatoes
mature green
sample costs
and
production



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

Cost Data Sheet No. 17

MATURE GREEN TOMATOES, OPEN GROWN--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 - 8.0 tons or 533 - 30# carton. Growing period - 130 days.

OPERATION	Custom Rate	MATERIALS		HAND LABOR		SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
LAND PREPARATION						
Plow or subsoil	\$ 13.50					\$ 13.50
Disc 2x	4.50					9.00
Border & break border	4.50					4.50
Flood		Water	2.80	2	7.50*	10.30
Fertilize	3.00	400# 11-48-0	40.00			43.00
Disc 2x	4.50					9.00
Landplane 2x	5.00					10.00
List beds	10.00					10.00
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						\$ 109.30

GROWING PERIOD						
Plant & shape beds	8.25	Seed 1#	18.00			26.25
Thin 2x				25	93.75	93.75
Cultivate 3x	6.00					18.00
Fertilize - side - dress	7.00	400# N-P-K	104.50			125.50
Hoe 2-7x				12	45.00	45.00
Layby herbicide	3.00	Herbicide	22.20			25.20
Irrigate 10x		Water 8 ac ft	28.00	12	45.00*	73.00
Insect Control 12x	3.50	Insecticides	80.00			122.00
GROWING PERIOD						\$ 528.70

GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREP COSTS						\$ 638.00
Land Rent - (new lease)						150.00
Cash Overhead - 12% of preharvest costs and land rent						94.56
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS						\$ 882.56

HARVEST						
Contract @ \$3.10 per 30# box, including picking, hauling, packing and selling						\$1652.30
TOTAL ALL COSTS AND SELLING						\$2534.86

Cost per carton = \$4.76

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

YEAR	ACRES	YIELD/ACRE	VALUE ^{1/}
1970	2600	5.00	\$ 254.30
1971	1850	11.35	259.81
1972	2500	11.20	175.89
1973	2000	7.0	313.42
1974	3000	12.93	191.88

PLANTING DATES: Open tomatoes are planted from early January through February 15 for an early June harvest. A small acreage may also be seeded in July or August for harvest in winter.

VARIETIES: Earlypak 7 and Ace are the principal varieties grown. However, other varieties resistant to Fusarium, Verticillium, and nematodes are planted on small acreages.

SOILS: Medium to heavy soils that are well drained are generally best. Such soils maintain their moisture content longer and more uniformly than sandy soils.

IRRIGATION: Moisture should be maintained as uniformly as possible. Large fluctuations in soil moisture or water stress conditions can be detrimental to plant and fruit development.

^{1/}Includes stake tomatoes.

FERTILIZERS

Before listing, 20-40 pounds nitrogen and 100-200 pounds phosphate are broadcast, although banding of reduced fertilizer rates under the seed is also practiced. After thinning, 150-200 pounds of N are sidedressed and water run depending on the previous crop. Excess nitrogen results in delayed and uneven maturity.

PESTS AND DISEASES

The primary insect problems are tomato fruit worms, armyworms, thrips, aphids, and pinworms. Curly top virus and fusarium wilt are the chief diseases.

HARVESTING

Most of the fruit is picked in the mature green stage, placed in field trailers or bins and hauled to shed for washing, cooling and packing.

Prepared by
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