

DRIP IRRIGATED SEEDLESS WATERMELON PRODUCTION COSTS 2002-2003

Hand labor at \$9.25 per hour (\$6.75 plus SS, unemployment insurance, transportation, supervision, workman's compensation and fringe benefits).

Yield-- 25 tons per acre.

2/3 bin containers

OPERATION	RATE	Materials		Hand Labor		Cost Per acre
		Type	Cost	Hours	Dollars	
LAND PREPARATION						
Subsoil 2nd gear	39.00					39.00
Disc 2x	12.50					25.00
Border, cross check and break borders	19.00					19.00
Flood		Water 1 ac-ft	16.00	1	9.25	25.25
Disc 2x	12.50					25.00
List beds	19.00					19.00
Rerun beds 2x	13.50					27.00
TOTAL LAND PREPARATION						179.25
GROWING PERIOD						
Install drip irrigation		Drip system & tape	600.00	12	111.00	711.00
Install plastic mulch	55.00	Plastic mulch	82.00			137.00
Metam sodium via drip		metam sodium	145.00			145.00
Seedless transplants		S-transplants	840.00		includes labor	840.00
Pollinator transplants		P-transplants	100.00		includes labor	100.00
Cultivate 2x	13.00					26.00
Irrigate 10x		Water 3 ac/ft	48.00	20	185.00	233.00
Fertilizer via drip		200 lb. N @ .32	64.00			64.00
		100# phosphate	35.00			35.00
Drip maintenance		Chemicals	25.00			25.00
Hand weed 2x				12	111.00	111.00
Pollination		1.5 hives @ 27.00	40.50			40.50
Vine turn 2x (hand)				14	129.50	129.50
Insect control 4x	10.00	Insecticides	100.00			140.00
Disease control 2x	10.00	Fungicide	30.00			50.00
Remove mulch & tape		Disposal fee	15.00	15	138.75	153.75
Bust beds	13.00					13.00
TOTAL GROWING PERIOD						2953.75
GROWING PERIOD & LAND PREPARATION COSTS						3133.00
Land Rent (net acres)						225.00
Cash Overhead--	15 % of preharvest costs & land rent					503.70
TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS						3861.70
HARVEST						
Pick, load, haul, sort and sell		25 tons/ acre @	80.00	/ton*	(.04 per lb)	2000.00
TOTAL OF ALL COSTS						5861.70

PROJECTED PROFIT OR LOSS PER ACRE

		Price/ton (dollars)					Break-even ¢/pound
		200	210	220	230	240	
Tons per acre	20	-1462	-1262	-1062	-862	-662	13.7
	23	-1102	-872	-642	-412	-182	12.4
	27	-622	-352	-82	188	458	11.2
	30	-262	38	338	638	938	10.4
	33	98	428	758	1088	1418	9.9

* Harvest cost may vary substantially depending upon the melon type, container packed, resorting and yard fees.