

WATERMELON
JAN 2000
A-LAND

STANDARD WATERMELONS
IRRIGATED, FILM MULCHED

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION **

EXPECTED INCOME **			
	PRICE/MELON		
	\$0.60	\$1.20	\$1.80
QUANTITY (MELON)			
1361	\$817	\$1,633	\$2,450
2722	\$1,633	\$3,266	\$4,900
4083	\$2,450	\$4,900	\$7,349

1,361 plants/acre - 4' x 8' spacing - 2 melons/vine = 2,722/acre. One hive of bees per acre near melons is necessary for consistent yields. Use Prefar and Alanap tankmix on unmulched middles. Before making planting holes, irrigate in. Begin fungicides/insecticides spraying immediately after emergence or transplanting to prevent gummy stem blight and cucumber beetle feeding/rasping damage to plants. Consider biodegradable mulch film, which allows sprinkler irrigation option. Bed rows 4-5" high before laying plastic mulch. Irrigation system is drip with throw-away pre-punched tubing. First-acre trickle irrigation material cost is \$2,162. Volume marketing requires proper precooling (see Table 1).

VARIABLE COSTS:	UNITS	QUANTITY	PRICE	COSTS	
SEEDING COSTS:	Rye cover crop	BU	2	\$9.00/BU	\$18.00 (*)
SEEDS	Royal Charleston	LB	3	\$12.00/LB	\$36.00
	Crimson Sweet, Fiesta, Starbrite				
FERTILIZER: N		LB	100	\$0.28/LB	\$28.00
P		LB	200	\$0.25/LB	\$50.00
K		LB	200	\$0.14/LB	\$28.00
LIME		TONS	0.5	\$20.00/TON	\$10.00
SPRAY MATERIALS:					
HERBICIDES:	Curbit	PT	3	\$27.18/GAL	\$81.54
(Unmulched Middles)		GAL	0.5	\$37.99/GAL	\$19.00
INSECTICIDES:	Thiodan 50WP (3)	GAL	1.25	\$7.20/GAL	\$9.00
	Smoke bombs (groundhogs)	EA	4	\$1.20/BMB	\$4.80
FUNGICIDES: Bravo(3) + Ridomil/Bravo 81W(3)		LB	12	\$16.56/LB	\$198.72
	Quadris (alternate)	OZ	24	\$331.00/GAL	\$62.06
CROP SUPPLIES:	Plastic mulch (4' x 2000 - 1.5 MIL)	ROLLS	3	\$70.00/ROLL	\$210.00
IRRIGATION:		ACRE	\$2,294	26.32%	\$603.74 (*)
MARKETING:					
PICK-UP TRUCK HAULING (AVG 20 miles)		HAULS	10	\$1.50/HAUL	\$15.00 (*)
MACHINERY & EQUIP. (Fuel, oil, repairs)		\$\$	\$148.06	\$1.00	\$148.06
Operating interest (on above costs except *)		\$\$	\$885	7.50%	\$66.39 (*)
				OPERATING COSTS	\$1,588.30
				OUT-OF-POCKET COST PER MELON **	\$0.58
FIXED COST:					
LABOR		HRS	130	\$7.00	\$910.00
TOTAL FIXED MACHINE COSTS		\$\$	\$277.40	\$1.00	\$277.40
TOTAL FIXED BUILDING COSTS		\$\$	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00
(DEP., INT., INS., & TAXES)					
LAND CHARGE		\$\$	\$800.00	8.00%	\$64.00
				TOTAL COSTS	\$2,839.71
				TOTAL COSTS PER MELON **	\$1.04

** Based on 2,722-melon production. Various costs of production are listed on the next page.

WATERMELON (continued)

WATERMELONS

<u>LABOR REQUIRED</u>	<u>HOURS/SEASON</u>	<u>EXPECTED COSTS AT VARIOUS LEVELS OF PRODUCTION**</u>		
D-J-F	0			
M-A-MAY 15	7			
MAY 16-31	12			
JUNE 1-15	12			
JUNE 16-30	3			
JULY 1-15	3			
JULY 16-31	3			
AUGUST 1-15	74			
AUGUST 16-31	0			
SEPT. 1-15	0			
SEPT. 16-30	0			
OCT. - NOV.	16			
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TOTAL	130 HOURS			

	PRODUCTION LEVEL PER UNIT		
	1361	2722	4083
OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS	\$1.17	\$0.58	\$0.39
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TOTAL COSTS	\$1.92	\$1.04	\$0.75

** Cost considers changes in harvest labor, box and marketing costs.

MACHINE USED:	OPERATING COSTS			FIXED COSTS	
	Hours Used	Per Hour	Total	Per Hour	Total
40 HP tractor and plow	1	\$4.47	\$4.47	\$7.74	\$7.74
40 HP tractor and disc	0.5	\$4.67	\$2.34	\$13.52	\$6.76
40 HP tractor and harrow	0.3	\$3.30	\$0.99	\$6.89	\$2.07
40 HP tractor and fertilizer spreader	0.2	\$3.18	\$0.64	\$4.61	\$0.92
40 HP tractor and sprayer	1	\$4.01	\$4.01	\$10.43	\$10.43
40 HP tractor & plastic mulch layer	4	\$3.81	\$15.24	\$11.29	\$45.16
Pick-up truck	30	\$3.85	\$115.50	\$5.37	\$161.10
Mist blower	6.5	\$0.75	\$4.88	\$6.65	\$43.23
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TOTALS	43.5		\$148.06		\$277.40

TOTAL MACHINE COSTS \$425.46