



2006-2007 VEGETABLE CROPS PREVAILING RATES IMPERIAL COUNTY



Many Imperial Valley Vegetable Crop Growers hire some custom work as an economic alternative to their farming business. The problem continually encountered in this arena is often expressed as “What is a fair charge?” or “How much should I pay?” for the item in question. Information in this publication can help provide some answers to these questions.

Custom rates are a fair assessment of cultural practices across farms. This usually includes the machine, operator, fuel, and repairs required to keep the machine operating. Hiring custom work services enables farmers who have limited time, skills, investment capital, and/or land base to employ modern machine technology. For the owner of the custom service, performing such services can provide supplemental income in situations where excess labor and machinery capacity are available.

Because there is no standardized market structure for machine services, determining a fair price for custom work continues to be difficult. The values below are rates expected to be charged or paid, in-farm business, or perform custom work for others including fuel and labor based on numerous consultations with farm service providers. This rate schedule is intended only as rent of machinery or performing such services. The information provided is a guide. Actual custom rates may vary according to availability. Economics suggests that the price should be a function of the demand for and the supply of the custom work services available. Because the transportation cost of the machine service is high, relative to the potential income earned, the geographical market area for many machine services may vary. Additionally fuel market fluctuations need to be considered in determining actual custom rates applied.

HEAVY TRACTOR WORK AND LAND PREPARATION

Plow	\$34.60/Acre	Break border	\$8.00/Acre
Subsoil 2nd gear	\$52.90/Acre	Stubble disc	\$25.70/Acre
Subsoil 3rd gear	\$43.50/Acre	Stubble disc with cultipak	\$27.40/Acre
Landplane	\$16.00/Acre	Regular disc	\$15.60/Acre
Triplane	\$14.20/Acre	Regular disc with cultipak	\$18.00/Acre
Chisel 15"	\$32.00/Acre	List 30" - 12 row/40" - 8 row	\$18.30/Acre
Wil-Rich chisel	\$18.10/Acre	List 30" 12-row/40" 8-row (GPS)	\$18.50/Acre
Big Ox	\$29.70/Acre	List 30" 12-row/40" 8-row w/fert.(GPS)	\$19.50/Acre
Slip plow	\$52.00/Acre	Float	\$13.10/Acre
Mark/disc borders	\$10.90/Acre	Dump (scraper) borders	\$21.80/Acre
Make cross checks (taps)	\$7.70/Acre		

LIGHT TRACTOR WORK

Power mulch dry	\$29.50/Acre	Inj. fertilizer & furrow out 30" beds 4-row	\$18.00/Acre
Power mulch with herbicide	\$34.20/Acre	Inj. fertilizer & furrow out 40" beds 4-row	\$16.20/Acre
Shape 30" 6-row	\$14.00/Acre	Fertilize dry & furrow out 30" 4-row	\$17.60/Acre
Shape 40" 4-row	\$14.00/Acre	Fertilize dry & furrow out 40" 4-row	\$15.90/Acre
Plant vegetables	\$24.40/Acre	Inject fertilizer flat	\$16.60/Acre
Plant corn slope	\$18.20/Acre	Broadcast dry fertilizer	\$9.40/Acre
Cultivate 30" beds 4-row	\$18.60/Acre	Ground Spray 30" / 40" 8-row	\$13.60/Acre
Cultivate 40" beds 4-row	\$16.60/Acre	Chop cotton stalks 30" beds	\$17.80/Acre
Spike 30" beds 4-row	\$14.20/Acre	Chop cotton stalks 40" beds	\$15.80/Acre
Spike 40" beds 4-row	\$12.20/Acre	List 80" melon slope beds	\$20.70/Acre
Spike and furrow out 30" 4-row	\$15.50/Acre	Plant 80" melon slope beds	\$24.80/Acre
Spike and furrow out 40" 4-row	\$12.40/Acre	Plant 80" beds (24-Line Planter)	\$25.00/Acre
Furrow out 30" beds 4-row	\$14.50/Acre	Back fill furrow (melons)	\$10.40/Acre
Furrow out 40" beds 4-row	\$12.70/Acre	Cultivate 80" melon slope beds	\$19.20/Acre
Lilliston 30" 6-row	\$15.90/Acre	Center 80" melon beds	\$17.80/Acre
Lilliston 40" 4-row	\$15.90/Acre	Re-run 80" melon beds	\$11.40/Acre
Lilliston 30" 6-row/herb	\$17.30/Acre	Inj. fertilizer & furrow out 80" melon beds	\$18.70/Acre
Lilliston 40" 4-row/herb	\$18.00/Acre	Bust out 80" melon beds	\$12.40/Acre
Plastic Mulch	\$354.00/Acre	Solarization	\$356.00/Acre

PREVAILING RATES BY THE HOUR

Motor grader	\$64.80/Hour	D-6	\$59.80/Hour
Backhoe	\$59.60/Hour	D-8	\$76.00/Hour
Water truck	\$48.90/Hour	Buck ends of field	\$38.80/Hour
Wheel tractor	\$40.90/Hour	Pipe setting (2 men)	\$40.40/Hour
Scraper	\$41.30/Hour	Laser level	\$107.70/Hour
Versatile	\$60.60/Hour	Work ends (disc out rotobucks)	\$42.80/Hour

MISCELLANEOUS

E.C. (G.P.S.) Mapping	\$25.00/Acre
-----------------------	--------------

The University of California prohibits discrimination or harassment of any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy (including childbirth), and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or status as a covered veteran (covered veterans are special disabled veterans, recently separated veterans, Vietnam era veterans, or any other veterans who served on active duty during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized) in any of its programs or activities. University policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable State and Federal laws. Inquiries regarding the University's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the Affirmative Action/Staff Personnel Services Director, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 300 Lakeside Drive, 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612-3550, (510) 987-0096.

Prepared by
Rick Bottoms Ph.D., UCCE Vegetable Crops Advisor
(760) 352-9474 rbottoms@ucdavis.edu

Acknowledgments:
Kathy Morris
Jose Quiroz

