

ARTICHOKES

Resources:

UC Vegetable Center Website – artichokes: <http://vric.ucdavis.edu/selectnewcrop.artichoke.htm>
Info on Production, Costs, pest Management, Harvest & Postharvest

- Varieties: crowns: Globe
[Seed & transplants: Imperial Star, Emerald, Improved globe]
- Plant: Nov - Feb
- Spacing: perennial: 4-8' in row x 8-10' between rows (~20 plants/100'row)
- Soils: Adaptable but best on deep, fertile well drained soils – won't tolerate wet feet or droughty soils. Probably best on **Site 1 or 2 – the loamy spots**
- Longevity: for perennial beds – replant every 5-10 years
- Harvest: **Feb-April.** Harvest once or twice a week. Fields could potentially be managed for summer production by using seeded varieties and growing annually. But it would take some experimentation to figure out the correct planting times. However, if the weather is too hot the quality of the buds is not as good so even if we can get May-June production they may not be too good.
- Management: Typically plants are cut back after harvest in May or June and left dry until you want growth to resume for a specific harvest window – June for early winter harvest to Aug for late spring - harvest. Or plants are removed and replanted with an annual scheme.
- Irrigation: Drip irrigation. Needs regular irrigation while harvesting for bud quality; no irrigation after cut back for summer dormancy.
- Fertilization: For organic - before planting – dig in compost/manure. After planting –50-100 lb/A annually of N through the drip (fish emulsion?) or band below the drip line.
- Yields: 400-600 cartons/A (22 lb carton) depending on harvest window & market conditions
= 10-15#/plant = 45 (lg)-115 (sm) chokes/plant
- Pests: Few pest problems. Should be easy to grow organically. Weed control may take some planning. Artichoke plume moth is the primary pest and can be controlled with summer dormancy or fallow.
- Note: Typical harvest period for this crop is a time when the FM are typically closed. We may be able to switch to a May-June harvest window by changing the cutback time BUT I'm not sure how the bud quality will stand up to the warmer summer temps. Might be worth doing a small planting and fiddling with seeding times to see if it would work here. Could be a good annual rotational crop for the winter squash plot.