

ESTIMATING CROP YIELDS & PLANTING SCHEDULES

**Publication
Number
31-042C**
(March 2014)

COMPILED BY: Cindy Fake, Horticulture & Small Farms Advisor, Nevada & Placer Counties
and Vanessa Reed, SierraCRAFT Intern

These resources will help you estimate crop yields. Keep in mind the source and note the differences between the climate and conditions where they were developed and those of your operation. Compare these tools to the UC Vegetable Research and Information Center (VRIC) production articles on individual crops for more regionally specific information (http://vric.ucdavis.edu/main/veg_info.htm).

No matter what tools you use, it is important to develop your own records of yield and productivity, as information developed by you at your particular site will be the most reliable.

Canadian Organic Growers' Crop Planning

COG publishes a great book on crop planning, but also has helpful spreadsheets for planting, greenhouse, and market planning available free for download (see bottom of page).

[http://www.cog.ca/shop/index.php?](http://www.cog.ca/shop/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=1&products_id=267&zenid=8668e40cf6f745b910953c9c9a1b5bd9)

[main_page=product_info&cPath=1&products_id=267&zenid=8668e40cf6f745b910953c9c9a1b5bd9](http://www.cog.ca/shop/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=1&products_id=267&zenid=8668e40cf6f745b910953c9c9a1b5bd9)

Crop Yield Quantity & Market Return Calculator

Helps calculate the market return value for a given planting based on the market price you enter.

<http://www.csgnetwork.com/cropyieldcalc.html>

Johnny's Selected Seed Calculators (Maine)

Direct Seed Chart, Seed Calculator, Starting Date Calculator, Fall Planting Calculator

These online tools help you calculate how much seed to buy, when to start seeds, and working back from first frost dates to determine when you must have a late crop in the field.

<http://www.johnnyseeds.com/t-online-tools-calculators.aspx>

Vesey's Seeds (Prince Edward Island, Canada)

Lists the seeds needed, expected yields, and cultural information for direct seed and transplant vegetable crops. Based on a 50 foot row.

<http://www.veseys.com/ca/en/learn/reference/plantingchart>

UCCE Mixed Vegetable Cost Study (Sierra Nevada Foothills)

This cost study was developed in Placer and Nevada Counties and includes some yield data for three particular crops: tomatoes, winter squash and melon.

<http://ucanr.edu/sites/placernevadasmallfarms/files/142579.pdf>



United States Department of Agriculture, University of California, Placer and Nevada Counties cooperating.

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 service in the uniformed services (as defined by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994: service in the uniformed services includes membership, application for membership, performance of service, application for service, or obligation for service in the uniformed services) in any of its programs or activities. University policy also prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person in any of its programs or activities for making a complaint of discrimination or sexual harassment or for using or participating in the investigation or resolution process of any such complaint. 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/Equal Opportunity Director, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 1111 Franklin Street, 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94607, (510) 987-0096.

CSA CALCULATION TOOLS**CSA Crop Planning (UC Santa Cruz)**

This unit of the Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS) Direct Marketing and Small Farm Viability curriculum goes step by step through how to design your crop plan including setting harvest goals, estimating your seed requirements, and setting a planting schedule.

http://www.traces.org/green/Course-marketing/4.5_CSA_crop_plan.pdf

CSA Crop Calculator (North Carolina)

NCSU Center for Environmental Farming Systems provides this Excel workbook calculator, which allows you to enter how much you need of a crop, how many plantings, harvest dates, etc., then provides planting and harvest guides.

www.cefs.ncsu.edu/resources/csa/csacalculatorversiondraft.xls

