

Planting Costs

Comparison of four planting systems and different management systems; cost is for planting 1,000 row feet. Calculate acre costs by multiplying by 10.8 for 48" row-centers or by 14 for 36" row-centers. No overhead costs are factored into these comparisons. The comparison is between labor and plant costs for each planting system/density.

I. Traditional Matted Rows (planted in mid-May, 120 day establishment)

Plants	500 @ \$82/1,000	41.00		
Planting Labor	2 hr. @ 8	16.00		
Dachtal	12 lb./acre	8.00		
Labor	June, July, cultivating	64.00*	total	\$129

II. Potted Plants (planted early July, 80 day establishment)

Plants	500 @ \$82/1000	41.00		
Labor	Potting, 3 hr.; watering etc. 3 hr., planting 4 hr.: 10 hr. @ 8	80.00		
Potting Mix	2 bales	30.00		
4" Pots and Trays	(cost/3)	18.00		
Gramaxone Extra		1.00	total	\$170

III. High Density for Matted Rows (6" plant spacing, early July, 80 day establishment)

Plants	2,000 @ \$82/1,000	164.00		
Planting Labor	4.25 hr.. @ 8	34.00		
Gramaxone Extra		1.00	total	\$199

IV. High Density for Spaced Rows, Organic Management (6" plant spacing, early July, 75-95 day establishment).

Plants	2,000 @ \$82/1,000	164.00		
Planting Labor	4 hr.. @ 8	32.00		
Pre-plant Flaming	1 hr labor, \$2 propane	10.00	total	\$206

*The conventional grower added the cost of cultivating the control group for June and July in order to balance the expense that was saved by the delayed planting in the other systems. Mechanical cultivation for organic and conventional systems is virtually the same. In conventional systems with herbicides hoeing is required by the end of the season and is usually done coincident with setting runners. Under organic management hoeing is required every 10 days during the establishment season. Hoeing 1,000 row feet of berries requires 2hrs labor, six hoeings (for plants established in early July) would add \$96 to the establishment costs of every 1,000 row/ft. The additional cost of 2 hoeings or \$32 could be added to the cost of the systems utilizing herbicides.