

ESTIMATING CROP YIELDS & PLANTING SCHEDULES

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The following are some resources to help you estimate your crop yields. When using these tools, keep in mind the source and note the differences between the climate and conditions they were developed in and those of your operation. You may find it helpful to 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 our 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?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 (Maine)

DIRECT SEED CHART

Lists the seed needed and expected yields for direct seed & transplant vegetable crops. This chart is also included in their catalogue. Based on a 100 foot row.

<http://www.johnnyseeds.com/assets/information/2010VegetableCharts.pdf>

SEED CALCULATOR

Helps you calculate how much seed to buy (and the cost) for a certain crop or planting.

<http://www.johnnyseeds.com/SeedCalculator.aspx>

SEED STARTING DATE CALCULATOR

Helps you determine when to start your seeds and transplants.

<http://www.johnnyseeds.com/e-PDGSeedStart.aspx?source=GFM%201/2011>

FALL PLANTING CALCULATOR

Works backwards from first frost to help determine your fall planting dates.

<http://www.johnnyseeds.com/Assets/seedstartingfallcrops.xls>

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.org/sites/placernevadasmallfarms/files/66198.pdf>

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>



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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



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