

ESTIMATING CROP YIELDS & PLANTING SCHEDULES

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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>



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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

