WATERMELON (Seeded), TRICKLE IRRIGATED



Kentucky Estimated Costs and Returns for 2022 Market Garden Scale (<u>700 row feet</u>, Approx. 0.12 acre, Direct Market) NOT TO BE CONSIDERED CROPPING RECOMMENDATIONS OR PROFITABILITY PROJECTIONS. FOR COMPARISON AND PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY.

	Quantity	Unit	\$/L	Jnit	То	tal	1	
GROSS RETURNS			<u> </u>		^			
Watermelons, Seeded	450	melons	\$	5.00	_	2,250.00	a,b	
					\$	-		
Total Returns					\$	2,250.00		
	1	r	r		1			
VARIABLE COSTS								Your Numbers
Production								
Seeded Watermelon Seeds	263	seeds	\$	0.30	\$	78.90		
Cost of Growing Transplants - Labor, Media, Utilities	263	plants	\$	0.25	\$	65.75		
N Fertilizer: Urea	13	lbs	\$	0.40	\$	5.20		
K Fertilizer: Potash (0-0-60)	10	lbs	\$	0.60	\$	6.00		
N Fertilizer: Fertigation (Calcium Nitrate or Potassium Nitrate)	50	lbs	\$	0.65	\$	32.50		
Plastic Mulch		feet	\$	0.05	\$	35.00	с	
Drip Lines & Irrigation Fittings	700	feet	\$	0.05	\$	35.00	с	
Weed Control	1	plot	\$	67.26	\$	67.26	d	
Insect Control		plot	\$	26.82	\$	26.82	d	
Disease Control	1	plot	\$	35.76	\$	35.76	d	
Pollination	0.33	hive	\$	75.00	\$	25.00	g	
Irrigation	1	plot	\$	6.50	\$	6.50	с	
Hired Labor (Planting, Hand Weeding)	4	hrs.	\$	16.50	\$	66.00		
Machinery Variable Costs	1	plot		11.55		11.55	е	
Total Preharvest Variable Costs					\$	497.24		
HARVESTING AND MARKETING								
Plastic Disposal	2	hours	\$	16.50	\$	33.00		
Harvest Bin & Boxes	1			220.00		220.00		
Hired Labor								
Harvest & Field Grading	15	hours	\$	16.50	\$	247.50	f	
Marketing Costs (10% of Gross)	10.0%		Ċ		\$	225.00		
Transport to Market		miles	\$	0.60	\$		е	
Total Harvesting and Marketing Cost					\$	845.50		
Interest on Variable Costs					\$	27.60		
TOTAL VARIABLE COST					\$	1,370.34		
RETURN ABOVE VARIABLE COSTS					\$	879.66		
FIXED COSTS								
Machinery and Equipment					\$	21.26	е	
Irrigation System Capital Recovery					\$	144.16		
Taxes on Land					\$	1.00	Ť	
Insurance					\$	13.70	1	
TOTAL FIXED COSTS					\$	180.13	1	
					Ť		1	
TOTAL EXPENSES	1				\$	1,550.47		
	1				Ψ	.,000.47		
RETURN TO OPERATOR LABOR, LAND, CAPITAL, & MGT.					\$	699.53		
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Operator Labor (machinery and irrigation)	10	hrs.	¢	16.50	\$	165.00	1	
	10	1113.	Ψ	10.00	Ψ	105.00		
RETURN TO LAND, CAPITAL, AND MANAGEMENT	1				\$	534.53		
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a Yields based on UK variety trials and grower yield estimates. Yields on plastic with trickle irrigation are likely to be higher than bare field.

b Price based on Kentucky farmers market and auction prices.

c Fuel and power for irrigation system. Assumes established well or water source. Depreciation fixed costs in capital recovery line.

d Pesticide costs based on recommended applications of various products using 2022 product costs, plus extra labor.

Product costs for 0.12 acre: Herbicide \$1.26; Insecticide \$10.32; Fungicide \$19.26.

e Machinery cost calculator updated for vegetable production in 2022.

 $f\,$ Based on state budgets with revisions by Kentucky vegetable experts.

g Hive rental rates are very dependent on local availability.