

Table 49. Watermelons: Estimated production costs for the following crop of a double-crop system in the Manatee/Ruskin area, 1998-99.

Category	Average per	
	Acre	Cwt.
Yield (cwts.)	320	
<b>OPERATING COSTS</b>	-----Dollars-----	
Seed	25.18	
Fertilizer and lime	126.00	
Fungicide	54.62	
Herbicide	33.87	
Insecticide	55.47	
Labor	290.61	
Machinery	240.70	
Interest	31.55	
Miscellaneous		
Scouting	25.00	
Bee rental	4.00	
Farm vehicles	19.33	
Plastic removal and disposal	75.00	
String/stake	123.42	
Total operating cost	1,106.30	
<b>FIXED COST</b>		
Machinery	51.75	
Management	281.63	
Overhead	281.63	
Total fixed cost	615.00	
<b>TOTAL PREHARVEST COST</b>	1,721.30	5.38
<b>HARVEST AND MARKETING COSTS</b>		
Harvest and pack <sup>a</sup>	480.00	1.50
Packing material	9.60	0.03
Selling	320.00	1.00
Marketing and Promotion Assessment	6.40	0.02
Total harvest and marketing cost	816.00	2.55
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	5,537.30	7.93

<sup>a</sup> Cost attributed to second crop as a result of double-crop production practices following Tomatoes.

<sup>b</sup> Costs exclude field and bed preparation, plastic mulch and fumigant.

Table 50. Watermelons: Estimated net returns for various price and yield combinations for the following crop of a double-crop system in the Manatee/Ruskin area, 1998-99.

Yield (cwts.)	Dollars per cwt.				
	5.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	9.00
280	-1,035.30	-755.30 <sup>b</sup>	-475.30	-195.30	84.70
300	-986.30	-686.30	-386.30	-86.30	213.70
320	-937.30	-617.30	-297.30	22.70	342.70
340	-888.30	-548.30	-208.30	131.70	471.70
360	-839.30	-479.30	-119.30	240.70	600.70