

COST OF PRODUCING BEDDING PLANTS IN CONNECTICUT

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At growers meetings throughout the state, the first question is, "How much does it cost to produce a flat of bedding plants?" Growers are asking this because the price of paks has increased as much as 116%, carriers 94% and fuel 160% in less than a year. No one knows at the present time what the cost of labor, fuel or supplies will be in the spring.

The following is a guide that has been calculated based upon data obtained from growers and suppliers. The figures indicate a range of prices depending upon where you purchase supplies and the quality you buy.

Considerations

1. Do not discount prices of materials purchased last year. Figure on replacement values at present prices.

2. Figuring percent increase: If oil was \$0.15 last year and it is \$0.28 now: subtract \$0.15 from \$0.28 = \$0.13 increase. $\$0.13 \div \$0.15 = \%$ increase or 86%.

3. If you want to increase your selling price by 15% and your price last year was \$3.00 per flat: $\$3.00 \times 15 = \0.45 . $\$3.00 + \$0.45 = \$3.45$.

4. The low and high estimated costs are based upon the sum of low and the sum of the high estimations. It is highly improbable that any grower would fit either instance. Rather, your costs would probably be intermediate.

Cost of Producing a Flat of Bedding Plants in Ct. *

	Last Year	January 1974
<u>Materials</u>		
Carrier, 14 1/4 x 12 3/4"	.16	.25 - .31
Paks, 6 1/4x4 1/2x2 1/2"	.18	.31 - .39
Soil mix (additives and sterilizing)	.10	.18 - .23
Seedlings	.25	.30 - .50
Fertilizer		.02
Fungicides, insecticides		.02
Growth retardants		.01
Labels	.02	.05 - .07
Sub-total		\$1.14 \$1.55
<u>Overhead</u>		
Heat (average, 1 gal. of fuel/flat)	.15	.28 - .39
Depreciation on greenhouse and equipment		.15 - .25
Plastic for greenhouse		.10 - .15
Office supplies		.02
Management & office workers' time		.10 - .30
Loss due to poor or underdeveloped plants (5%)		.05
Taxes	.02	.02
General maintenance		.10 - .15
Sub-total		\$.82 \$1.33
<u>Labor</u>		
Filling flats (130 flats/yard soil)	.05	.06 - .20
Moving plants to growing area	.02	.02 - .08
Spraying		.02
Watering	.10	.10
Transplanting 8	.10	.13 - .15
Sub-total		\$.33 \$.55
<u>Marketing</u>		
Shipping and delivery	.25	.25 - .40
Sales commission		? ?
TOTAL		\$2.54 \$3.83

*Costs as of January 1974