Capital costs for setting up a new vegetable CSA

Several CSA groups have asked us what capital costs there might be in setting up a new vegetable CSA.

This is an example shopping list and prices are approximate – please look carefully at your own situation and use this only as a guide. It is based on setting up a box scheme for 100 families from 2a of land:

Item	Source	Approx cost new	Approx cost second hand
Rabbit fencing, if needed	Farm supplies	£100 per 50m (electric)	
Deer fencing, if needed	Farm supplies	£140 per 100m roll	
Fleece Cheap stuff: lasts 1-2 years	Horticultural suppliers	£25 1.2m x 250m	
Enviromesh Posh fleece: lasts for 10-15 years	Horticultural suppliers	£200 per 2m x100m	
Hand tools – spades, forks, wheel barrows etc	Car boot sales / ebay / DIY	£500	£200
Rotavator	Machinery dealer / auctions / ebay		
Small tractor, if needed	Machinery dealer / auctions / ebay	£10,000	£3-5,000
Fruit trees	Walcot Nurseries, Heron's Folly Garden Frank Matthews Deacons	£15 -20 each	
Perennial fruit plants – rhubarb/ asparagus etc	Various plant suppliers	Up to £5 each	
Manure	Local farm	Often free	
Contractor to plough land	Local farmers	Depends on area of land and operation	
Large polytunnel 10x30m	Fordingbridge Northern tunnels + many others	£5000+ (including erection)	£1500ish (not including erection)
Installing a water supply	Various irrigation companies	Very variable From extension to mains supply (few hundred) to tanks and pumps – possibly thousands	
Building a large packing shed	Local building contractors	£2-10,000	

Useful link to horticultural suppliers
http://www.cha-hort.com/members/lbs_horticulture.htm#