

VINEYARD ESTABLISHMENT COSTS IN THE NORTH COAST COUNTIES

GR-NC-66-1

NONIRRIGATED, HEAD-PRUNED WINE VARIETIES

1966

It takes about 4 years to bring a vineyard into commercial bearing. Only the first 3 years' development costs are presented in this schedule, since income from grapes produced in the fourth year is figured to more than cover current costs. The data were developed in Mendocino, Napa, and Sonoma Counties.

Cost Analysis Worksheet
Showing Sample Costs

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George B. Alcorn, Director, California Agricultural Extension Service.

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COST ANALYSIS WORKSHEET

HEAD-PRUNED, NONIRRIGATED WINE VARIETIES — Sample Costs of Establishing a Vineyard, 1966*

Planted 8 feet by 12 feet — 413 vines per acre

COST PER ACRE

	1st Year	2d Year	3d Year
Yield — tons			1.5
PREHARVEST CASH & LABOR COST			
Land prep. (on level land)	\$ 12.50	\$	\$
Lay out & peg vine locations	10.00		
Dig holes (power auger)	11.00		
Rootstocks (certified) — @ 25¢ + heel-in & trim \$1.50	104.75		
Stakes — 2x2 — 6 ft. treated, @ 25¢	103.25		
Plant vines & set stakes — 413	31.00		
Water by tank 2 weeks before budding	15.50		
Bud & cover, including rubber ties	70.00		
Budwood (inspected)	12.00		
Uncover & prune rootstock		11.00	
Cut rubbers & tops, place collars		40.00	
Prune, tie, train, & brush disposal		10.00	10.00
Sulfuring, including sulfur		5.00	5.80
Spray once for mites, including material			12.50
Cultivation & hand hoe	12.00	12.00	12.00
Misc. labor & material, sucker, retying, rebud., etc.	6.60	13.20	26.40
County taxes	15.30	15.30	16.50
Office, car, & general exp. (5% cash cost)	20.40	5.53	5.97
Repairs, except field power	4.00	4.00	4.00
Total Preharvest Cash & Labor Cost	\$428.30	\$116.03	\$ 93.17

COST PER ACRE

	1st Year	2d Year	3d Year
HARVESTING COST			
Harvesting & hauling — @ \$21.50			\$ 32.25
Total Cash & Labor Cost	\$428.30	\$116.03	\$125.42
DEPRECIATION COST			
Building & equipment	\$ 15.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 19.50
Total Cash & Depreciation Cost	\$443.30	\$132.03	\$144.92
INTEREST ON INVESTMENT @ 6%			
Building & equipment — on 1/2 cost	\$ 6.60	\$ 7.05	\$ 8.10
Land @ \$1,000	60.00	60.00	60.00
Interest on accumulated cost		30.59	44.37
Total Interest on Investment	\$ 66.60	\$ 97.64	\$112.47
TOTAL COST FOR YEAR	\$509.90	\$229.67	\$257.39
LESS INCOME FROM CROP @ \$110/TON			165.00
NET COST FOR YEAR	\$509.90	\$229.67	\$ 92.39
TOTAL ACCUMULATED COST	\$509.90	\$739.57	\$831.96

Based on a 40-acre vineyard. Man labor @ \$1.55 and \$1.75/hour (includes compensation insurance and Social Security, but no allowance for housing or other benefits). Tractor cash cost/hour @ \$1.25.

*This table shows only basic costs in the development of a vineyard. Fencing for deer and rabbit control, any irrigation or frost protection facilities, as well as trellising for varieties would be additional.

ABOUT THIS SHEET

This sheet is one of two on sample costs of establishing a wine grape vineyard in the north coast counties. The other is for establishment of an irrigated vineyard planted to cane-pruned premium varieties. Also available are data sheets on wine grape production costs for a mature, head-pruned, nonirrigated vineyard and a mature, cane-pruned, irrigated vineyard. The information is for use as a guide in determining the costs of establishing a specific vineyard. It does not represent industry average.

LAND PREPARATION – Costs shown are based on previously cropped and reasonably level valley land. Clearing, leveling, etc. would be additional costs, usually reflected in the land value.

ROOTSTOCKS AND SCION WOOD – Plant only rootings and scion wood certified by the California Department of Agriculture. If certified buds are not available, carefully inspect the buds used for freedom from disease.

TRAINING AND TRELLISING – This cost sheet assumes the head system, ordinarily used in older vineyards for most spur-pruned varieties. Cordon training may be employed to advantage on vigorously growing varieties planted on fertile soils. This would involve installation of at least a one-wire trellis. Costs for a two-wire trellis are shown in the data sheet for establishing a premium variety vineyard. For particulars on training, see University of California leaflet 111, *Spacing and Training Grapevines*.

FENCING – Temporary fencing for rabbits may be needed for the first 2 or 3 years of the vineyard. In some locations, permanent fencing may be necessary for protection from deer, and should be built when vineyard is planted. Permanent fencing costs for both deer and rabbit control will vary considerably with the individual situation. Some growers have reported costs approaching 50 cents per foot installed.

FROST PROTECTION – Frost protection facilities would be an added cost. Investment and annual cash costs will vary considerably with the method, location, temperature variations, etc. Contact your county farm advisor for local information.