

GR-SI-72
 THOMPSON SEEDLESS GRAPES (500 vines/acre)
 COACHELLA VALLEY, Riverside County--1972

Sample Costs of Production

Based on an 80-acre vineyard; yield of 350--22# packed boxes; basic union labor rate of \$2.50/hour (including supervision, union agreement, social security, workmen's compensation, and health insurance); tractor @ \$1.25/hour cash costs, owner operated.

Operation	Hours/ Acre	Labor Cost	Equip- ment Cost	Materials Kind	Cost	Total per Acre	Costs per Box
Prune	56	\$140				\$140	.40
Shred prunings (contract)			\$ 4			4	
Tying @ 5¢/vine		25		Twine	\$ 1	26	
Fertilize, 150# Am. Nit.			3	Am. Nit.	5	8	
5 tons Steer Manure Spread					23	23	
Girdling (contract)	12	30				30	
Gibberellin Application 2 X @ 40 ppm	2	5	4	Gibberellin	56	65	.19
Thinning	70	175				175	.50
Pest and Disease Control							
1 Spray Applic.	1	2	2	Sevin	7	11	
Sulfur Dusting 8 X	4	10	7	Sulfur	3	20	
Tillage 8 X	8	20	12			32	
Irrigate	40	100		Water	20	120	.34
Miscellaneous Labor	37	93				93	.27
Hand Tools					10	10	
Supervision	25	90				90	.26
Total Cultural Cost	255	\$690	\$32		\$125	\$847	\$2.42
Cash Overhead (office, accounting, insurance, etc.)						\$125	\$.36
County Taxes						47	.13
TOTAL PRE-HARVEST CASH COSTS						\$1019	\$2.91
Picking and Packing @ \$1.25/box						\$ 438	\$1.25
Hauling @ .10/box						35	.10
Packinghouse Charge @ .45/box						158	.45
Box materials, gassing of fruit, etc.						228	.65
Commission @ 9% of FOB price \$5.50/box						173	.50
TOTAL POST-HARVEST CASH COST						\$1032	\$2.95

	Cost	Investment* Per Acre	Life	Per Acre		
				Depre- ciation	Interest @7%	
Land		\$700			\$49	
Irrigation Pipe		200	20 yr	\$10	7	
Vines		610	15	41	21	
Stakes		115	15	8	4	
Equipment						
Tractor	\$8400	105	10	10		
Disc	1350	17	10	2		
Sprayer	5000	63	15	4		
Duster	600	8	5	2		
French Plow	600	8	10	1		
Furrower	850	11	10	1		
Trailer	900	11	20	1		
Equipment Total	\$17,700	\$221		\$21	8	
Total		\$1846		\$80	\$89	
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION					\$169	.48
					\$2,220	\$6.34

*Real Estate Investment based on Riverside County Assessor's Appraised Value (not replacement value).

GRAPE PRODUCTION
COACHELLA VALLEY -- Riverside County

This cost data sheet is based on a typical vineyard of Thompson Seedless. However, with relatively minor differences, the costs can be used as a guide for estimates of production costs of other varieties as well.

MARKETING: All Coachella Valley grapes are produced for the fresh market. They are packed in 22# lugs in the field, brought to the shipping point for cooling and shipped via truck or train to all domestic markets with some being exported. The grape season begins with the Perlette harvest in late May, changes to Thompsons about the middle of June and continues until the harvest begins in the San Joaquin Valley in late July. There are a total of 7300 acres of grapes in the valley, about 42% of which are Perlettes, 46% Thompson and the remainder colored varieties, principally Cardinal. There are only 166 acres of new plantings not yet in production. The total acreage is decreasing.

PLANTING AND TRAINING: Vineyards should be planted on well-drained soils in warm locations as free as possible of wind and soil salinity. Planting distance is usually 7 to 12 feet. Rootings are planted in the spring, grown without training the first summer, pruned to the ground the next winter, trained up the stake the second summer, pruned for a small crop the third summer. Four to eight canes with 15 buds each are used. They are trained on a trellis made of 7-foot stakes with 3-foot crossarms.

FERTILIZER: Commercial nitrogen and manure are used. Excess nitrogen prior to bloom is suspected of causing excessive shatter which is sometimes troublesome. A leaf petiole nitrate test has been developed for diagnosing the nitrogen requirement of grapevines. (See Agricultural Extension Service pamphlet "Predicting Nitrogen Response in Vineyards.")

IRRIGATION: Irrigation begins in February or March. Water is applied about twice a month until harvest and once a month thereafter as long as the leaves remain. In saline soils irrigation water is applied heavily during the winter months to leach salt from the soil. Short irrigation runs not exceeding 330 feet on sandy soils and flat slopes (not exceeding .2 percent) are recommended.

INSECTS: Bud beetle is treated at bud-break in the spring; leafhopper is a pest through the season. These are the only important insect pests. Root knot nematode is frequently severe on roots. Contact the farm advisors' office for the latest recommendations on the control of insects and diseases.

DISEASES: Powdery mildew is the only important disease. Frequent sulfur dustings are required especially when the new shoots first appear in the spring.

WEED CONTROL: Bermuda and Sandbur are important weeds. Most grassy vineyards are French plowed yearly. Dalapon, a chemical weed killer, and weed oils are used to some extent.

THINNING AND GIRDLING: Twenty to twenty-five clusters are left on a good vine. Berry thinning is required if the set is too heavy. A good cluster will weigh a pound to a pound and a half at harvest. Costs for thinning vary greatly with the vineyard and the particular season. Most vines are trunk girdled just after shatter to improve berry size. A hormone (gibberellin) is used to increase berry size.