

ESTIMATED COSTS TO  
RE-ESTABLISH PEAR ORCHARDS  
IN EL DORADO COUNTY

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PREPARED COOPERATIVELY  
BY

PEAR INDUSTRY REHABILITATION COMMITTEE

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THE COST FIGURES PRESENTED IN THIS PUBLICATION WERE COMPILED FROM ACTUAL COSTS TO GROWERS WITH RECENT EXPERIENCE IN ESTABLISHING YOUNG ORCHARDS. THESE FIGURES WOULD BE REPRESENTATIVE OF ORCHARD OPERATIONS OF THIRTY TO FIFTY ACRES IN SIZE. ALL FIGURES SHOULD BE TREATED AS GUIDES ONLY AS COSTS VARY FROM ONE OPERATION TO ANOTHER AND FROM YEAR TO YEAR.

REMOVAL OF OLD TREES

OLD TREES MAY BE REMOVED INDIVIDUALLY OR IN SOLID BLOCKS, DEPENDENT ON THE CONDITION OF THE ORCHARD. INDIVIDUAL TREE REMOVAL HAS PROVEN VERY EXPENSIVE; AN AVERAGE FIGURE OF \$200 PER ACRE IS SHOWN IN THE ENCLOSED TABLE OF COSTS. SOLID BLOCK TREE REMOVAL SHOULD COST LESS THAN FIFTY DOLLARS PER ACRE.

PLANTING COSTS

PLANTING COSTS NATURALLY WOULD VARY WITH THE NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED PER ACRE. DOUBLE PLANTING TO OBTAIN EARLY PRODUCTION WOULD INCREASE INITIAL COSTS COMMENSURATE WITH THE NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED. WHERE GROUND HAS BEEN COMPACTED AND MANY OLD ROOTS ARE PRESENT, ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCE SHOULD BE MADE FOR SUBSOILING.

YEARLY COSTS

THESE FIGURES WILL VARY CONSIDERABLY, DEPENDING ON CULTURAL PRACTICES FOLLOWED AND THE AREA IN WHICH THE ORCHARD IS LOCATED.

**ESTIMATED AVERAGE COST TO REPLANT PEAR ORCHARDS**

(PER ACRE)

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	FIFTH	SIXTH	SEVENTH
PULL AND REMOVE OLD TREES	200						
DIG HOLES	19						
PLANT TREES	33						
TREES	120						
IRRIGATION	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
WATER	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
SPRAY	5	6	10	20	30	40	55
WEED CONTROL	35	44	45	40	40	36	36
TRAINING	6	10	20	25	40	45	49
FERTILIZING	15	16	18	23	30	32	35
GOPHER CONTROL	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
REPLACE TREES	7	7	-	-	-	-	-
TAXES	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
MISC.	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
<b>YEARLY TOTALS</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>260</b>

**TOTAL \$1797**

**ORCHARD INVESTMENT PER ACRE**

- BUILDINGS
- IRRIGATION SYSTEM
- TRACTORS AND TRUCKS
- SPRAYER
- OTHER EQUIPMENT
- DRAINAGE AND PONDS
- DEER FENCE

**AVERAGE**  
 BUILDINGS \$322  
 IRRIGATION SYSTEM 262  
 TRACTORS AND TRUCKS 228  
 SPRAYER 75  
 OTHER EQUIPMENT 50  
 DRAINAGE AND PONDS 13  
 DEER FENCE 90  
**TOTAL \$1140**

**LAND VALUE \$350 - \$750**

PRODUCTION RETURNS

FIGURES SHOWN IN THE TABLE DO NOT REFLECT ANY PRODUCTION RETURNS, BUT DO INCLUDE PRODUCTION COSTS FOR CARE OF FRUIT. INDIVIDUAL BLOCKS OF YOUNG TREES IN THE COUNTY HAVE RETURNED YEARLY CULTURAL COSTS IN THE FIFTH AND SIXTH YEARS. EARLY PRODUCTION RESULTING FROM GOOD CULTURAL PRACTICES CAN SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE THE ESTIMATED OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSE OF \$1797 PER ACRE FOR RE-ESTABLISHING PEAR ORCHARDS.

PRESENT ORCHARD INVESTMENT

EL DORADO COUNTY PEAR INDUSTRY REHABILITATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS FEEL THAT \$1140 PER ACRE WAS TYPICAL OF THE INVESTMENT (EXCLUDING LAND AND TREES) OF A COMMERCIAL PEAR OPERATION. THIS FIGURE WOULD VARY CONSIDERABLY WITH THE SIZE AND THE AMOUNT OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE ORCHARD OPERATION. IN MOST CASES THIS INVESTMENT IS NOW PRESENT AND IS ADAPTABLE ONLY TO THE PARTICULAR ORCHARD OPERATION INVOLVED.

LAND VALUE

LAND VALUE FIGURES SHOWN WERE ARBITRARILY ARRIVED AT BY THE COMMITTEE. THE RANGE OF PRICE REFLECTS THE VALUE OF LAND FOR ORCHARD USE, ACCORDING TO WATER AVAILABILITY, FROST HAZARD, LAND TOPOGRAPHY, ETC.