

SAMPLE COSTS TO ESTABLISH A TABLE GRAPE VINEYARD IN TULARE COUNTY

1959

(Emperor, Ribier, Red Malaga, etc.)

	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year
LABOR AND MATERIALS			
Land Preparation: chisel, disc twice and float	\$10.00		
Survey and peg	5.00		
Pegs, 413 @ 3.80 per 1000	1.57		
Planting (shovel)	10.00	\$ 1.00	
Vines, 413 rootings @ \$75 per 1000 + 8 second year	30.98	.60	
Driving stakes and setting end posts		18.00	
Stakes, 413 7' long @ 29 cents		119.77	
End posts, 11 @ \$1.25		13.75	
String wire and staple		2.75	\$ 5.50
Wire, 300 lbs. #12 gauge @ \$12 per 100		12.00	24.00
Attaching cross-arms and braces			25.00
Cross-arms, 413 3' long @ 6 cents, braces 413 @ 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents, staples, and wire to attach cross-arm			35.00
Training		35.00	10.00
Pruning and brush disposal		2.50	7.50
Tillage, irrigation preparation and hoe	15.00	15.00	15.00
Fertilize: labor and material (weak spots only)		5.00	5.00
Irrigating	6.00	6.00	6.00
Water cost @ \$7.50 per acre foot	18.75	22.50	26.25
Pest and disease control-application	4.00	3.00	10.00
Pest and disease control-materials	4.00	6.50	14.00
Taxes	7.00	9.00	11.00
Misc: labor, materials, office, car, repairs, etc.	12.00	14.00	16.00
TOTAL PRE-HARVEST CASH AND LABOR	124.30	286.37	210.25
HARVESTING			
Picking and hauling - 4 tons @ \$12 a ton			48.00
DEPRECIATION			
Irrigation facilities (25 year-cost \$90 an acre)*	3.60	3.60	3.60
Buildings and equipment	7.00	7.00	7.00
TOTAL DEPRECIATION	10.60	10.60	10.60
TOTAL CASH LABOR AND DEPRECIATION COST	134.90	296.97	268.85
INTEREST ON INVESTMENT @ 6 percent			
Irrigation facilities (\$45 - $\frac{1}{2}$ cost)*	2.70	2.70	2.70
Building and equipment (\$50 - $\frac{1}{2}$ cost)	3.00	3.00	3.00
Land @ \$750 per acre	45.00	45.00	45.00
Interest on accumulated costs		11.14	32.66
TOTAL INTEREST	50.70	61.84	83.36
TOTAL COST FOR YEAR	185.60	358.81	352.21
ACCUMULATED COST		544.41	896.62
FRUIT CREDIT, 4 tons @ \$50 per ton			-200.00
NET COST END OF THIRD YEAR			\$696.62
*Irrigation Distribution System Only			

COST OF ESTABLISHING A TABLE GRAPE VINEYARD
IN TULARE COUNTY - 1959

These cost figures were based on data obtained from growers who had recently established new vineyards. They are thought to represent typical though conservative costs. The costs are calculated for table grape varieties such as Emperor, Ribier, Red Malaga, etc, that is, those varieties trained to bilateral cordons. A table Thompson seedless vineyard would be similar. The extra wire required for the four-wire trellis would be offset by a lower training charge.

It is assumed that each vine is supported by a seven-foot stake, and each stake equipped with a three-foot wide cross-arm lashed to the stake with wire and supported with one brace. Growers sometimes use alternate seven and six-foot stakes with cross-arms on the seven-foot stakes only. Should this practice be followed, costs would be reduced proportionately. Other costs might be reduced, such as planting with cuttings instead of rootings.

Costs have been figured on the basis of an 8' x 12' planting with allowance for avenues with a total of 413 vines per acre. Without such allowance a solid acre would total 454 vines per acre.

Water has been figured at \$7.50 per acre foot, the approximate cost in those irrigation districts securing water from the Friant-Kern Canal. It is also comparable for the total cost of pumped water for a lift of 125 feet, at 6 cents per acre foot per foot lift.

The costs deal only with the establishment of the vineyard. The land, valued at \$750 per acre, is assumed to be leveled. The pipeline with outlets installed, is valued at \$90 per acre. A well and pump would be additional charges.

The first crop, produced the third year, is calculated at four tons per acre, probably above average but not uncommonly achieved with good farming practices. It is assumed that about two-thirds of this crop would be shipped as fresh table fruit, and the remainder diverted to the winery, and that the value of the fruit picked and delivered to the packing house and to the winery averages \$50 a ton.

Information concerning the planting of a new vineyard is available in a Tulare County publication entitled "Planting New Vineyards - The First Year"

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February, 1959