

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE PRUNES IN SONOMA COUNTY - SPRINKLER IRRIGATED
1975

all over

1 acre orchard, trees 24' x 24' = 75 trees/acre. (Some growers are now double planting)
Planting ratio in Healdsburg area: 2.5 to 1. Yield 2.5 dry tons/acre. (above average)

Gross Income to growers 1972-74 approx. \$450 to \$480 per ton.

Note: Extra cost not shown below may result from hand-sorting cracked prunes out of dried prunes at dehydrators. July 7, 1974 rain caused 25% cracking, whereas July 15, 1975 rain caused only 3% cracking.

Pruning costs have increased due to tree disease increase, CYTOSPORA BARK CANCKER carried into holes by borers and air-carried into bark injuries from unpruned or abandoned trees has increased the past 5 years. June-pruning with pole saws is recommended to remove new limb canker "strikes".

PRE-HARVEST CASH COSTS	Hours per acre	Labor* seasonal \$2.88	skilled \$4.00	Fuel and repairs (Table 2)	Materials kind and quantity	Per Acre total cost
Pruning @.75/tree or by the hour	10+10 1	\$28.80 (June)	40.00 4.00		Hand work, ladders Pole saw, lopper	68.80 4.00
Brush disposal, buckrake	1+1	2.88	4.00	1.66+.15	45 hp wheel tr.	8.69
Fertilize:	.5		2.00	.83	110 lbs. N (urea)	33.80
Spray 6 times inc. KNO ₃ foliar	3		12.00	33.96	Chemicals	67.66 113.62
Cultivate 4 times	3		12.00	19.41	crawler & wheel	31.41
Irrigate 3 times, 2" pipe	3+1	8.64	4.00		(pull-hose less)	12.64
Water: Power, 18 acre inches					well	8.00
Prop, tie, wire	3+1	8.64	4.00	3.32	wheel tr. 2 hrs.	15.96
Misc. labor & tractor	2+2	5.76	8.00	3.32	" " " "	17.08
Misc. materials						8.00
Tractor, car, supplies (6% of cultural and harvest costs, taxes not included)						37.05
TOTAL PRE-HARVEST CASH AND LABOR COSTS						359.05
Taxes, county						60.00

HARVEST COSTS (8 to 9 bins @1,250# fresh prunes/acre)					
Either by Harvester (7 men 2 1/2 hrs/ac)	43.10	10.00	16.50	= 69.60	(Some hire @\$40/hr)
or by Ground pick: .50/box or \$11 to \$15 per bin					(Shaker hire @\$20/hr) 116.00
Fork lift, bins	1	4.00	2.56	bin rent .50x10	11.56
Haul to dehydrator	2	8.00	8.00		16.00
Dehydrate @\$20 per fresh ton, 6 fresh tons/acre					120.00
TOTAL HARVESTING AND DEHYDRATION COSTS					263.56

DEPRECIATION COSTS		Annual Deprec.	Interest 8% if invested
Land \$2,000/acre		00	\$160.00
Trees (30 yr. life) 1,600/acre		\$53.33	128.00
Bldgs. for equip. 25 yr. 75		3.00	6.00
Bldgs. housing 30 yr. 188		6.27	15.04
Equipment 528 (see Table 2)		49.87	21.54 on 1/2 val.
Total:			330.58 not in tot.

TOTAL CASH AND LABOR COSTS		682.61
TOTAL CASH AND DEPRECIATION COSTS		795.08

TABLE 1 LABOR PER HOUR CASH FRINGE COSTS:

Hourly Cash Wage	Workmens Comp. Insurance	Social Security	Other	Total %	Cash	*Total Wage:
\$3.50	5.28%	5.85%	3.87%	15%	.53	\$4.03
Seasonal field: \$2.50	5.28%	5.85%	3.87%	15%	.38	\$2.88

Employers may establish an "allowance" figure for any electricity, fuel, water, food items, housing costs, add these items to cash hourly wage, and give employees a record of the actual total wage. Housing costs for hired help are shown in "Depreciation".

TABLE 2

80 Acre Orchard: 1974 Equipment Investment for Apples, Prunes, Pears, Sonoma County

	Cost	Annual Use (acres)	Value per acre	Life yrs.	Annual Deprec.	8% Int. on 1/2 Value	Cash Costs Per Hour*		
							Fuel	Repairs	Total
Tractor, Wheel D 45 HP	\$10,000	80	\$125.00	20	\$6.25	\$5.00	\$.64	\$1.02	\$1.66
Tractor, crawler, 40 HP, (used)	4,000	80	50.00	10	5.00	2.00	.90	2.25	3.15
Disc	1,800	80	22.50	12	1.88	.90	--	1.00	1.00
Rototiller, 5'	2,000	80	25.00	10	2.50	1.00	--	1.00	1.00
Pruning tower (40' x 10')	4,500	80	56.25	10	5.63	2.25	.40	.75	1.15
Sprayer, 400 gal. (40' x 10')	6,000	80	75.00	10	7.50	3.00	.80	4.05	4.85
Sprayer, weeds, PTO (40' x 10')	800	80	10.00	10	1.00	.40	--	--	1.65
Forklift attach. " " "	2,000	80	25.00	12	2.08	1.00	--	.90	1.90
Truck (used)	5,000	80	62.50	7	8.93	2.50	--	--	4.00
Pickup truck	4,500	80	56.25	10	5.63	2.25	--	--	4.00
Ladders (20)	1,000	80	12.50	10	1.25	.50	--	--	1.75
Picking bags (30)	300	80	3.75	10	.38	.15	--	--	.53
Buckrake (front end)	800	80	10.00	10	1.00	.40	--	--	1.40
Props (10 per tree)	375	80	4.68	10	.47	.19	--	--	.66
TOTALS PER ACRE			\$528.43		\$49.87	\$21.54			
TOTALS FOR 80 ACRES	\$42,274.00		\$42,274.00						

* Fuel costs shown at 100% increase and repairs 50% over 1972 data in AXT-336 (1972).
 * "Machinery Costs and Performance" available at Farm Advisors Office.

Philip H. Parsons, Farm Management Specialist, U.C., Davis
 John J. Smith, Farm Advisor, Sonoma County

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