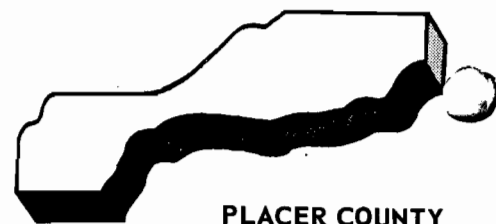


# SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

From Your Farm and Home Advisors' Office

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PLACER COUNTY

## PEAR PRODUCTION, PLACER COUNTY 1967

BARTLETT PEARS continue to be a 1,500 acre industry for Placer County. Fresh shipments of about 1/2 the crop, and cannery contracts for the balance brought \$913,000 gross income in 1966. HARDY and WINTER NELIS are similar in production costs but bring lower prices and in years of heavy crop, may have no market.

Marketing: through local fruit sheds, about 50% shipped fresh, 50% to canneries; a small tonnage at farm roadside stands.

ORIENTAL SALAD PEARS are a specialty crop in small plantings, as are Early Bartlett (Dr. Jules Guyot). Both are very susceptible to Bacterial Fire Blight. All the above mentioned varieties are now considered desirable for cross pollination of Bartletts to increase crop in years when bloom period is cold or wet. Pollinating varieties that bloom at the same time as Bartlett are grafted or planted about every fourth tree every fourth row.

To rehabilitate Bartlett pear blocks and increase yield per acre so as to obtain gross income above costs, a practice of "double planting in the rows" is recommended. Decline trees, Grade #3 or worse, with little or no new growth should be replaced, and in addition, new trees are placed between trees, resulting in 10'x20' spacing.

Double planting does not increase cost of operation per acre except for the new trees, planting, and annual pruning cost.

Test plots indicate desirable rootstocks are Winter Nelis, Old Home self-rooted, Bartlett self-rooted, Betulaefolia (may cause black end), and Calleryana. The latter two make more vigorous replants than do domestic french root. Mature trees on Calleryana roots at Auburn survived pear decline better and are larger than adjacent trees with domestic french roots.

Irrigation by sprinklers, 1/8" nozzles, 8 to 11 hour sets, repeated at 12 to 20 day intervals, is most common. Interval (tensiometers helpful) depends on soil depth, day length and high temperature, July water management being most critical for these reasons and for optimum fruit sizing. Water quality is excellent, supplied by ditches from Bear and American Rivers.

Strip weed sprays in tree rows reduce root competition and total number of times crossing rows with tractor equipment.

Fertilization at 100 pounds N per acre is recommended for January or February application in mature orchards.

All labor (except harvest) in this study is considered to be hired at \$1.50 for unskilled labor and \$1.75 per hour for tractor, truck drivers and supervisory labor, including O.A.S.I. and Workmen's Compensation Insurance. Use of bins and mechanized harvest aids is increasing in foothill orchards.

Note: The value of one acre of trees used in this cost study for Placer County's existing orchards represents about 50% of the statewide figure of developing a new orchard 5 years of age. Also about 10% of the trees are missing or non-bearing replants.

*Ad Reed*

COSTS TO PRODUCE BARTLETT PEARS IN PLACER COUNTY

Orchard: 40 acres, trees spaced 20'x20'.  
 Yield: 8 to 15 tons/acre; price about \$80 per ton.  
 Labor: Skilled @ \$1.75 per hour. Unskilled \$1.50 incl. OASI and WCI.

Cultural	Hours Per Acre	Cash & Labor Cost Per Acre			Total Costs Per Acre
		Labor	Fuel and Repairs	Materials	
Prune 30 min/tree	62.5	93.75			93.75
Brush removal	2.0	3.25	1.50		4.75
Fertilize	0.5	.88	1.00	100 lbs. N @ 14¢	15.88
Spray 8x	8.0	14.00	25.20	Spray	111.08
Dust 3x @ 0.4	1.2	2.10	1.50	3x @ 25 lbs. 20-80	13.05
Cultivation: disc 2x, mow 4x	4.0	7.00	6.40		13.40
Irrigate 1lx	20.0	30.00		½ miner's inch/acre/yr.	57.50
Prop or wire	6.0	9.00	5.70		14.70
<b>Total Cultural</b>	<b>104.2</b>	<b>159.98</b>	<b>41.30</b>		<b>324.11</b>

Total Harvest (pick, haul, supervise) 10 tons @ \$15.00 per ton 150.00

Cash Overhead  
 Misc. office, insurance etc. 22.21  
 Taxes\* 24.00  
 Total Cash Overhead 46.21

Total Cash Cost 520.32

Management 5% of 10 tons @ \$80 per ton = \$800 gross income per acre 40.00

	Investment	Per Acre	Annual Cost	Interest	
150	Land	600.00		36.00	
110	Trees	900.00	36 yrs = 25.00	27.00	
20	Irrigation	150.00	15 yrs = 10.00	4.50	
20	Shed, labor house	167.00	20 yrs = 8.35	5.00	
52	Tractor & Equip.	412.00	48.60	12.35	
10	Drainage	50.00	1.67	1.50	
<b>362</b>		<b>2279.00</b>	<b>93.62</b>	<b>86.35</b>	<b>179.97</b>

	Yield in tons per acre		
	8	10	15
Total Cost per ton	\$ 87.78	\$ 74.03	\$ 55.68
Total Cost per acre	\$702.29	\$740.29	\$835.29
Gross income @ \$80/ton	\$640.00	\$800.00	\$1,200.00

John J. Smith, Farm Advisor & Phil Parsons, Extension Economist  
 \*Note: Taxes: are average of several actual 1966 tax bills. These will be influenced by sales of adjoining parcels for homesites, and orchard yield records.  
 UC Cooperative Extension