

ABOUT THIS SHEET

These sample costs are based on a typical, mature almond orchard grown under southern San Joaquin Valley conditions. The cost data in this sheet are for use as a guide to determine costs for specific orchard situations.

Varieties. Nonpareil is still the standard of excellence in the California almond industry and the variety in greatest demand. Other varieties grown for specific uses and as pollenizers for Nonpareil are Merced, Mission, Ne Plus Ultra, and Thompson. Many new varieties are being tried and some show promise for commercial production.

Cross-Pollination. The commercial almond varieties currently grown must be cross-pollinated for maximum production. This can only be achieved by using pollenizer varieties correctly placed in relation to the crop variety as well as by at least two strong bee hives per acre, and good weather conditions for bee activity.

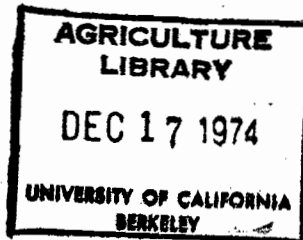
Major Problems. Noninfectious bud-failure is a major problem in Nonpareil almond trees and is of increasing concern in Merced. Either topwork or replace severely affected trees with bud-failure free sources, if available. Sprays may be necessary to control the peach twig borer, San Jose scale, and mites.

The navel orange worm remains a major pest, infesting the nuts remaining on the trees after the hulls crack. Early harvesting is essential, since delays increase the probability of insect infestation. In addition, orchard sanitation reduces over-wintering populations.

Irrigation and Fertilization. Mature almond trees require uniform applications of 38 to 48 inches of water a year. Apply nitrogen annually at the rate of 150 to 175 pounds actual nitrogen per acre. Apply zinc sprays each year in the fall or winter.

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1973

ALMOND

Orchard Production Costs in the Southern San Joaquin Valley

Cost Analysis Worksheet Showing Sample Costs

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COST ANALYSIS WORKSHEET: Almond Production Costs for a Mature Orchard, 1973.

	SAMPLE COSTS		YOUR COSTS	
	Per Acre	Per Cwt.	Per Acre	Per Cwt.
PRE-HARVEST CASH COSTS				
Pruning: 8 hours labor	\$ 18.40	\$	\$	\$
Brush disposal: 2 hours labor, + 1 tractor-hour	6.35			
Fertilizer: 175 pounds nitrogen @ 11¢/pound applied	19.25			
Spray: materials + application 3 times	65.00			
Water: 4 acre-feet @ \$12/acre-foot	48.00			
Irrigation: 2 hours labor	4.60			
Weed control: mow centers, spray borders—3 hours labor + 3 tractor-hours	20.10			
Bees: 2 hives @ \$6.00	12.00			
Taxes	32.00			
Misc. labor and materials, including 2 tractor-hours	16.00			
Repairs, except tractor	8.00			
Supervision	14.00			
Office and business costs	21.80			
Total Pre-Harvest Cash Costs	\$285.50	\$ 10.38		
HARVEST COSTS				
Knock, pick, haul, hull in-shell nuts: @ 5¢/ pound with a maximum rate of \$100/acre	\$100.00	\$		
Total Harvest Costs	\$100.00	\$ 3.64		
Total Cash Costs	\$ 385.50	\$ 14.02		
DEPRECIATION				
Irrigation system: \$250 cost, 15-year life	\$ 16.67	\$	\$	\$
Buildings and equipment: \$120 cost, 12-year life	10.00			
Tractor: 6 hours @ \$1.20/hour	7.20			
Trees: 1,184 cost, 20-year life	59.20			
Total Depreciation	\$ 93.07	\$ 3.38		
INTEREST ON INVESTMENT @ 7%				
Irrigation system: 1/2 cost, \$125	\$ 8.75	\$	\$	\$
Buildings and equipment: 1/2 cost, \$60	4.20			
Tractor: 6 hours @ 70¢/hour	4.20			
Trees: 1/2 cost, \$592	41.44			
Land: @ \$1,000/acre	70.00			
Total Interest on Investment	\$128.59	\$ 4.68		
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION	\$607.16	\$ 22.08		
TOTAL COST OF NUTMEATS (55% shell out)		\$ 40.12		

SAMPLE COSTS PER POUND OF IN-SHELL NUTS AT VARYING YIELDS

Yield (pounds/acre)	2,000	2,250	2,500	2,750	3,000	3,250	3,500	4,000
Cash costs/cwt.	\$19.27	\$17.12	\$15.41	\$14.02	\$12.84	\$11.85	\$11.02	\$ 9.36
Total Costs/Cwt.	\$30.60	\$26.98	\$24.29	\$22.07	\$20.23	\$18.67	\$17.34	\$15.17

Practices are representative of flood irrigation on the valley floor. Costs are for a mature orchard with 75 trees per acre and a yield of 2,750 pounds of in-shell nuts per year. Based on labor @ \$2.30 and \$2.65 per hour; medium-wheel tractor per hour cash costs @ \$1.40; depreciation @ \$1.20; and interest @ \$.70.