

Citrus Orchard Management Study

1956

Ventura County

- LEMONS
- ORANGES

University of California
Agricultural Extension Service
Ventura County

This is the sixteenth annual summary of the Ventura County Citrus Orchard Management Study. It is conducted by the Agricultural Extension Service of the College of Agriculture, University of California, in cooperation with local growers in the county and the Citrus League.

The study includes records from 11 lemon and 16 Valencia orange cooperators. Acres included are 1218 for lemons and 403 for Valencia oranges.

It is imperative during these years of price-cost squeeze that each grower endeavor to put his orchard on as sound a financial basis as possible. Elimination of unnecessary costs, reducing certain cultural costs without materially affecting yields, and cutting down on cash overhead will increase the net income. Every tree should be a high or a potentially high producing tree.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the citrus growers of Ventura County who have cooperated in this study; also to Mr. George S. B. Ferguson of the Citrus League; and to Mr. Fisk Phelps, Farm Management Specialist, University of California, Riverside, for assisting in collecting and compilation of the data; also to the packing house managers who made yield records available.

B. W. Lee
Farm Advisor
University of California

LEMONS - COSTS AND RETURNS PER ACRE

Cultural costs	1956		Average ^{1/}	Your Average
	Low	High		
Fertilizing	\$ 11.43	\$ 89.80	\$ 29.46	
Water	5.05	82.12	18.05	
Irrigation labor	11.16	76.63	23.97	
Disease control	-	10.61	8.61	
Spraying	38.53	133.28	76.87	
Other pest control	-	10.50	5.23	
Frost protection	7.38	67.17	22.68	
Soil management	17.03	57.45	38.78	
Pruning & Disposal	-	72.69	55.14	
Remove and Plant Trees	-	21.90	9.26	
Miscellaneous Labor	-	37.73	9.41	
Total Cultural	173.94	452.32	281.24^{2/}	
Harvesting Costs				
Picking	149.13	365.67	219.89	
Hauling	18.18	62.94	32.57	
Total Harvesting	167.30	427.41	252.46^{2/}	
Overhead Costs				
Administration & Supervision	6.05	233.49	58.52	
General expense	4.48	63.87	15.81	
Taxes	27.28	65.41	44.04	
Insurance	1.14	12.05	3.85	
Maintenance & repair	3.79	40.47	14.96	
Depreciation (except trees)	-	106.06	35.17	
Total Overhead	61.42	456.79	171.39^{2/}	
Total Costs^{2/}	432.02	1166.52	705.09	
Total Returns	601.04	2041.89	1077.00	
Yield per Acre				
Field boxes	271	922	500	
Cartons	350	1330	653	
Per cent sold fresh	66	83	75	

^{1/}-- Based on acres participating in the practice.

^{2/}-- Totals are average of all acres (1218).

^{3/}-- Based on bearing acres.

Except where indicated, costs include labor and materials.

IN SUMMARY

LEMONS	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Per Field Box</u> ^{1/}	<u>Per Pkd. Box Eq.</u> ^{2/}	<u>Per Carton</u> ^{3/}
Cultural Costs	\$281.24	\$.56	\$.86	\$.43
Harvesting "	252.46	.51	.72	.39
Overhead "	171.39	.34	.52	.26
Total Costs	705.09	1.41	2.16	1.08
Total Returns	1077.00	2.15	3.30	1.65

1/ Field Box -- 50 pounds of fruit, average weight.

2/ Packed Box Equivalent -- all fruit converted to this unit whether fresh or products, 79 pounds for lemons.

3/ Carton -- One-half standard packed box.

VENTURA COUNTY SITUATION 1956

Bearing acreage	19,496*
Non-bearing acreage	5,586*
Production: Packed cartons	7,989,275*
Juice, tons	59,545*
Value (F.O.B.) Cartons	24,004,340*
Juice	2,489,834*

Yields (average)

Field boxes, Yield per acre	500
Price	\$2.15
Cartons, Yield per acre	653
Price	1.65

Total Average Net Income per Acre \$ 371.91

* Data from 1956 Agricultural Commissioner's Report

VALENCIA ORANGES - COSTS AND RETURNS PER ACRE

	1956		Average ^{1/}	Your Average
	Low	High		
<u>Cultural Costs</u>				
Fertilizing	\$10.91	\$125.38	\$ 41.64	
Water	11.75	119.09	50.13	
Irrigation Labor	9.29	84.05	34.16	
Disease and Pest Control	1.67	145.36	81.61	
Frost Protection	-	111.37	35.82	
Soil Management	17.11	72.30	41.16	
Pruning & Disposal	-	48.43	20.19	
Remove and Plant Trees	-	32.23	9.81	
Miscellaneous Labor	-	19.10	12.63	
Total Cultural	86.75	475.36	300.04^{2/}	
<u>Harvesting Costs</u>				
Picking	67.86	233.38	145.93	
Hauling	13.99	42.45	30.51	
Total Harvesting	81.85	275.83	176.44^{3/}	
<u>Overhead Costs</u>				
Administration & Supervision	-	214.87	100.42	
General expense	-	63.90	23.33	
Taxes	30.41	64.81	41.11	
Insurance	-	6.50	3.49	
Maintenance & Repair	-	51.48	17.05	
Depreciation (Except trees)	-	85.41	32.10	
Total Overhead	\$58.04	\$447.90	\$200.24^{2/}	
Total Costs^{2/}	296.50	893.54	676.72	
Total Returns	572.72	2,079.36	1,152.34	
<u>Yield per Acre</u>				
Field Boxes	280	805	548	
Cartons	404	1,166	777	
Per cent Sold Fresh	52	85	70	

^{1/}-- Based on acres participating in the practice

^{2/}-- Totals are average of all acres (403).

^{3/}-- Based on bearing acres

Except where indicated, costs include labor and materials.

IN SUMMARY

VALENCIA ORANGES

	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Per Field Box^{1/}</u>	<u>Per Pkd.Box Eq.^{2/}</u>	<u>Per Carton^{3/}</u>
Cultural Costs	\$300.04	\$.55	\$.75	\$.38
Harvesting "	176.44	.32	.46	.23
Overhead "	200.24	.36	.51	.26
Total Costs	676.72	1.23	1.74	.87
Total Returns	1152.34	2.10	2.96	1.48

1/ Field Box -- 55 pounds of fruit for oranges, average weight.

2/ Packed Box Equivalent -- All fruit converted to this unit whether fresh or products, 77 pounds for oranges.

3/ Carton-- one-half standard packed box.

VENTURA COUNTY SITUATION 1956

Bearing acreage	16,146*
Non-bearing acreage	104*
Production - Packed cartons.....	6,126,823*
Juice - tons	59,492*
Value (F.O.B.) Cartons	\$14,401,443*
Juice	2,522,109*
Yields (Average)	
Field Boxes - Yield per acre	548
Price	\$2.10
Cartons, Yield per acre	777
Price	1.48
Total Average Net Income per Acre	475.62

*Data from 1956 Agricultural Commissioner's Report

Explanation of Terms

☐ Under Cultural and Harvesting Costs --

All items include labor and materials except where otherwise indicated.

Soil management includes labor and materials under tillage or non-tillage practices.

☐ Under Overhead Costs --

Administration and supervision -- salaries of officers, manager or superintendent; charge for automobile used in supervision.

General Expense -- Office expense, legal fees, accounting and bookkeeping charges, laboratory services, telephone, social security taxes.

Taxes -- County real property taxes.

Insurance -- Workmen's compensation, fire, liability, etc.

Maintenance and Repairs -- Labor and materials for all repairs to ranch buildings, equipment, facilities.

Depreciation -- that allowable and taken (as per income tax) on buildings (except owner's home), equipment, irrigation system, machinery, heaters, wind machines, etc. Land and trees not included.

B. W. Lee
Farm Advisor
University of California
Agricultural Extension Service
52 North California Street, Ventura, California