

Table 10. A Standard of Labor, Material, and other Costs of producing Avocados in Southern California orchards about 15 years of age, with an average annual yield of 6000 lbs. per acre.

	Man	12 hp.	1½ Ton	Cost	Cost
	Labor	Tractor	Truck	per Acre	per Cwt.
	Hours per Acre			Dollars	
Pruning 75 Trees per Acre	10			3.00	
Brush Disposal	1		1	1.80	
Planting Cover Crop	1			.30	
Applying Manure, 6 T at 50¢	Contract			3.00	
Applying Commercial Fertilizer	2		1	2.10	
Cultivation 5 times, furrow 3	6	6		9.60	
Irrigation, 6 times	20			6.00	
Miscellaneous other work	10	1	1	5.80	
Total Cultural Labor	50	7	3	31.60	.52
Picking	90			27.00	.45
Hauling	6		4	7.80	.13
Total Labor Cost	146	7	7	66.40	1.10
Irrigation-Water 20 inches @ \$1.50				30.00	
Cover Crop Seed				1.00	
Dairy Manure 6 Tons @ \$2.50 a Ton				15.00	
Commercial Fertilizer 500 lbs. at \$2.00				10.00	
Miscellaneous Materials				4.00	
Total Material Cost				60.00	1.00
General Expense, 5% of Above Costs				6.32	
County Taxes, Assessed Value \$400, rate \$3.50				14.00	
Repairs to Facilities				1.00	
Compensation Insurance				.75	
Total Cash Overhead Cost				22.07	.37
Total Cash Costs				148.47	2.47
	Original Cost	Average Investment	5% Interest on inv.	Av. Annual Deprec.	
	Dollars per Acre				
Trees	1000.00	1000.00	50.00	--	
Service Building	10.00	5.00	.25	.25	
Irrigation Pipe, etc.	60.00	30.00	1.50	1.50	
Tillage Equipment	20.00	10.00	.50	1.00	
Small Tools & Miscel.	6.00	3.00	.15	.75	
Land	1000.00	1000.00	50.00		
Total Investment	2096.00	2048.00			
Total Depreciation				3.50	.06
Total Cash and Deprec.				151.97	2.53
Total Interest on Invest.			102.40	102.40	1.71
Total All Costs				254.37	4.24

This table is a computed standard of costs for a well managed mature avocado orchard with most of the work done by the owner. Investment, depreciation and rates for truck and tractor are based upon a 20 acre farm unit.

Labor costs per acre are computed at the following rates per hour: man labor, \$.30, 12-drawbar horsepower tractor \$1.30, 1½-ton truck, \$1.50.

Costs per hundredweight shown above are based on a yield of 6000 pounds. Yield some years would be double this and some years they might fall as low as 2000 lbs. Aside from harvesting, which may be computed at \$.60 per hundredweight, costs per acre will not vary much for different yields. To obtain cost of production for any other yield adjust the total cost per acre for the difference in harvesting cost and then divide by the yield. With the above yield total cost is \$4.24 per hundredweight, with a yield of 2500 lbs. Cost per hundredweight would be \$9.40.