

Agricultural Extension Service
 University of California
 Postoffice Bldg., Colusa

WALNUTS IN COLUSA COUNTY

Walnut acreage in Colusa County in 1952 was 900 acres of bearing trees, with about 300 acres of young non-bearing trees.

SOILS

Walnuts require a deep well drained soil. We have considerable acreage suitable for walnut production, but plantings have not expanded much in the last 10 years. Economic size of orchard to provide a satisfactory living, will be about 30 acres. One man can handle this much with some hired help for harvest and other operations requiring a crew.

The cost of bringing a walnut orchard into production under present prices, is about as follows:

Land	\$400 per acre
Irrigation system	100 per acre
Plant and grow trees	<u>500</u> per acre
Total.....	\$1000 per acre

These costs are cumulative over an 8-10 year period since walnut trees are usually that old before they produce a self sustaining crop. Producing orchards are valued at \$1000 to \$1500 per acre, depending on production history, age of trees and location.

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE WALNUTS IN COLUSA COUNTY

Based on 30 acre orchard
Yield - 2,000 lbs.

Labor \$1.00-\$1.25 per hour

Operation, Crew and Equipment	Hours per Acre	Cash Cost per Acre						Int. & Deprec. on Equip.	Total Cost per Acre
		Labor	Tractor and Equip.	Contract	Materials				
					Kind	Amount	Value		
Cultural Costs									
Prune:	10.	10.					10.00	.20	10.20
Brush Disposal: 2 Men, tract., sled	1.00	2.00	.80				2.80	2.80	5.60
Dust: By plane				1.50	Nic.Sul. 30#	7.50	9.00		9.00
Fertilize: Man, Tract., broadcaster	.2	.25	.25		Nic.Sul. 100#	15.00	15.50	1.00	16.50
Disk: 4 times, man, tract., disk	2.0	2.50	2.75				5.25	6.30	11.55
Check 2 times: man, tract., disk	1.0	1.25	1.40				2.65	3.95	6.60
Irrigate: 2 times	7.7	7.70	4.75		Power 100'	5.00	17.45	9.20	26.65
Miscellaneous tree care		5.00					5.00		5.00
Total cultural		28.70	9.95	1.50		27.50	67.65	23.45	91.10
Harvest Cost									
Float: man, tract., float	.5	.75	.60				1.35	1.70	3.05
Knock: 2 man, tract., knocker	1.0	2.50	1.40				3.90	3.40	7.30
Pick-up: 2000# @ 50¢ per 30# sack		33.50					33.50	.30	33.80
Haul: 1 ton @ \$2.00				2.00			2.00		2.00
Hull and dry-1 ton @ \$35.00				35.00			35.00		35.00
Total harvest		36.75	2.00	37.00			75.75	5.40	81.15
Total		65.45	11.95	38.50		27.50	143.40	28.85	172.25
Miscellaneous Costs:									
							5.00		
							10.00		
								15.00	
								15.00	
								20.00	
							15.00	50.00	65.00
							158.40	78.85	237.25
									11.86

Investment required for 30 acre orchard:

<u>Machinery and Equipment</u>	<u>Approximate Cost New</u>
Tractor-30 H.P. crawler	\$4500.00
Brush buck or sled	100.00
Disk 8'	500.00
Ridger	450.00
Roller or float	150.00
Broadcaster	50.00
Pruning equipment	30.00
Knocker tractor mount	300.00
Sacks	40.00
Miscellaneous	80.00
Total equipment.....	\$6200.00
Buildings-not including dwelling	5000.00
Trees-30 acres @ \$550	18000.00
Land-30 acres @ \$400	12000.00
Irrigation System	3000.00
Total Investment.....	\$44200.00
Per Acre	\$1473.00

DATA ON ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRICE

<u>Colusa County</u>				<u>California</u>	
		Production			
Acres	(pounds)	Price			
			Acres	Production	
			(pounds)		
1948	824	794,352	.22	111,700	124,000,000
1949	802	1305,053	.17½	108,394	160,400,000
1950	877	1210,228	.18	110,784	116,300,000
1951	877	1394,427	.22	111,864	136,400,000
1952	892	1795,117	.22	112,632	146,400,000