

CHERRY TOMATOES
Cost Analysis Work Sheet - 1981

Prepared by: Pedro Ilic, Fresno County Farm Advisor and E.A. Yeary, Farm Advisor - Statewide

Sample costs to produce cherry tomatoes in Fresno County. Costs are based on a yield of 3000 15-lb. boxes per acre. Field labor is \$4.00 per hour cost to the grower. Older 30 hp wheel gasoline tractor per hour cash costs \$4.40. Tillage equipment is assumed to be owned by the farmer, and all equipment is already depreciated to a low value. This is considered to be one crop on a 10-acre farm where several vegetable crops are produced. Cherry tomatoes are usually farmed from March through early November.

	<u>Sample Costs</u>		<u>My Costs</u>	
	Per Acre	Per Box	Per Acre	Per Box
Pre-Harvest Costs:				
Land preparation: 2.5 hrs. labor & tractor	\$ 21.00			
Fumigation: custom	85.00			
Disc and form beds: 1 hr. labor & tractor	8.40			
Herbicide and application	12.00			
Pre-plant fertilizer: material	28.00			
application	4.00			
Plants: 3000 at \$44.00 per 1000	132.00			
Machine planting: labor 15 hrs.	60.00			
tractor 5 hrs. per acre	22.00			
Hot caps, 3000 at \$82 per 1000	246.00			
Install hot caps, 5 hrs. labor	20.00			
Irrigate: 45 times, labor - 45 hours	180.00			
Water 8 ac. ft. at \$15.00 ac. ft.	120.00			
Fertilize: material 180 lbs. N at 40¢	72.00			
Labor 15 hrs. approx. 15 times	60.00			
Stake: 22 hrs. per acre at 68 per hr.	88.00			
Haul stakes	2.00			
String: 1.5 boxes string at \$110/box	165.00			
Labor: 23 hrs. per acre	92.00			
Cutworm bait, 40 lbs./acre	44.00			
Labor: 1 hr. per acre	4.00			
Cultivate 3X: 1 hr. labor and tractor	8.40			
Pest control: material	110.00			
application 15X, 30 hrs./acre	120.00			
Pull stakes: labor 24 hrs.	96.00			
truck charge to haul	2.00			
Rent	125.00			
Repairs	50.00			
Business costs: 6% of pre-harvest costs	118.61			
TOTAL PRE-HARVEST COSTS	\$2095.41	\$.70		
Harvest Costs:				
Cartons: 3000 at 78¢	\$2340.00			
Labor per box: 92¢	2760.00			
Packing and grading: 68¢	2040.00			
Transportation: 12¢	360.00			
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS	\$7500.00	\$2.50		
TOTAL CASH COSTS	\$9595.41	\$3.20		
Depreciation:				
Tractor, equipment, irrigation equipment \$3500, 10 yrs. life	\$ 35.00			
Stakes: 1500 at 40¢ cost, 7 yrs. life	85.71			
TOTAL DEPRECIATION	\$ 120.71	\$.04		

Interest on Investment at 12%:

Tractor, equipment, irrigation equipment

1/2 cost \$1750 for 10 acres

\$ 21.00

Stakes: 1/2 cost \$300 per acre

36.00

TOTAL INTEREST ON INVESTMENT

\$ 57.00

\$.02

TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION

\$9773.12

\$3.26

Sample Costs Per Carton at Varying Yields

Yield:					
15 lb. cartons	1500	2000	2500	3000	3500
Cash costs					
per carton	\$3.90	\$3.55	\$3.34	\$3.20	\$3.10
Total costs					
per carton	4.02	3.64	3.41	3.26	3.15

Much labor is required to produce cherry tomatoes. The pre-harvest operations require approximately 187 hours of work, and about 1245 hours of work are needed to pick, pack and haul a crop of 3000 boxes. These hours of labor are charged in this cost analysis work sheet at \$4. each, and add to a total of 1432 hours, costing \$5728 per acre. This amounts to \$1.91 per box at the 3000 box yield.

The grower and family members may be able to do part of this work, and reduce the cash costs by a large amount. The amount of money that this family labor earned would be determined by the price received for the cherry tomatoes.

Labor may be available at a cost that is lower than \$4.00 per hour. If so, this would reduce the costs per carton below the amounts shown on the cost analysis work sheet.