

# Lemons

sample production costs  
for  
los angeles county  
1960

Prepared by  
James A. Beutel  
Agricultural Extension Service  
University of California  
Farm Advisors Office  
808 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles 12, California  
UC Cooperative Extension

LEMONS - 1960

SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
Production - 500 Field boxes per acre

Operation	Cost Per Ac.	Cost Per F.B.
<b>CULTURAL COSTS</b>		
Fertilization		
Manure - 3 cu. ft. chicken (2#N)/tree @ 8¢ cu. ft. spread	24.00	
Chemical - 1#N/tree in water	\$ 13.00	
Irrigation - Overhead sprinklers		
Water - 3 ac. ft. @ \$21.00/ac. ft.	63.00	
Labor - 4 hrs./irrigation/10A (70¢/A/irrigation 24x)	16.80	
Pest Control - 2x - (contract)	65.00	
Weed Control - Monuron and oil - labor & materials	35.00	
Frost Protection		
Windmachine standby and electric 40 hp	40.00	
Heating - labor and oil	20.00	
Pruning		
Mechanical topping (contract)	16.00	
Brush piling and disposal	10.00	
Remove old trees and replant 5 trees	25.00	
Miscellaneous labor	10.00	
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS</b>	<b>\$ 337.80</b>	<b>\$ .68</b>
<b>CASH OVERHEAD</b>		
Taxes	80.00	
Insurance	6.00	
Maintenance, repairs, nuisance damage	20.00	
General expense and supervision	40.00	
<b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</b>	<b>\$ 146.00</b>	<b>\$ .29</b>
<b>TOTAL ON-TREE COSTS</b>	<b>\$ 483.80</b>	<b>\$ .97</b>
<b>HARVESTING COSTS</b>		
Picking 500 boxes @ 54¢ per field box	\$ 270.00	
Hauling 500 boxes @ 6¢ per field box	30.00	
<b>TOTAL HARVESTING</b>	<b>\$ 300.00</b>	<b>\$ .60</b>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>		
Trees - \$9,000 on 10 ac. - 30 yrs.	\$ 30.00	
Sprinkler system (perm. overhead)-\$6,500, 10 ac.-20 yrs.	32.50	
Windmachine - 40 hp elec. \$3,500 on 10 ac. - 10 yrs.	35.00	
Orchard heaters & oil tank - \$2,250 on 10 ac. - 15 yrs.	15.00	
Weed sprayer & misc. equip. - \$550 on 10 ac. - 10 yrs.	5.50	
Pickup truck - \$2,000, 1/2 used on 10 ac. - 8 yrs.	12.50	
<b>TOTAL DEPRECIATION</b>	<b>\$ 130.50</b>	<b>\$ .26</b>
<b>INTEREST ON INVESTMENT</b>		
Land with water \$5,000 per ac. without trees @ 6%	\$ 300.00	
1/2 value equip. & trees listed above - 10 ac. @ 6%	68.40	
<b>TOTAL INTEREST ON INVESTMENT</b>	<b>\$ 368.40</b>	<b>\$ .73</b>
<b>TOTAL NON-CASH OVERHEAD</b>	<b>\$ 498.90</b>	<b>\$ .99</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL COSTS</b>	<b>\$ 1,282.70</b>	<b>\$ 2.56</b>

## LEMONS - Additional Remarks

A typical lemon orchard in Los Angeles County for which these costs have been developed consists of the following:

Ten acres planted in rocky, sandy soils, 20' x 20', giving a total of 1024 trees. The average age is 25 years. The owner operates the orchard and additional labor is hired at \$1.50 to \$1.75 per hour or work is done by contract.

Irrigation is by permanent overhead sprinklers. Frost protection is by windmachine and orchard heaters. Weeds are controlled by monuron and oil. Pruning is by mechanical toppler. Pest control is a fall oil treatment, plus an additional spray in spring for pests. Normal tree replacement of 5% per year.

There are other methods used in producing lemons in Los Angeles County and their costs are slightly different than those shown in this publication. These on-tree cash costs for producing 500 field boxes of lemons were \$488.80 per acre or \$.98 per field box.

If your costs are similar to those reported here your on-tree costs per field box for varying yields are indicated in the table below.

Field Boxes Per Acre	On-Tree Cash Costs Per Field Box
300	\$ 1.63
400	1.22
450	1.09
550	.89
650	.75
750	.65