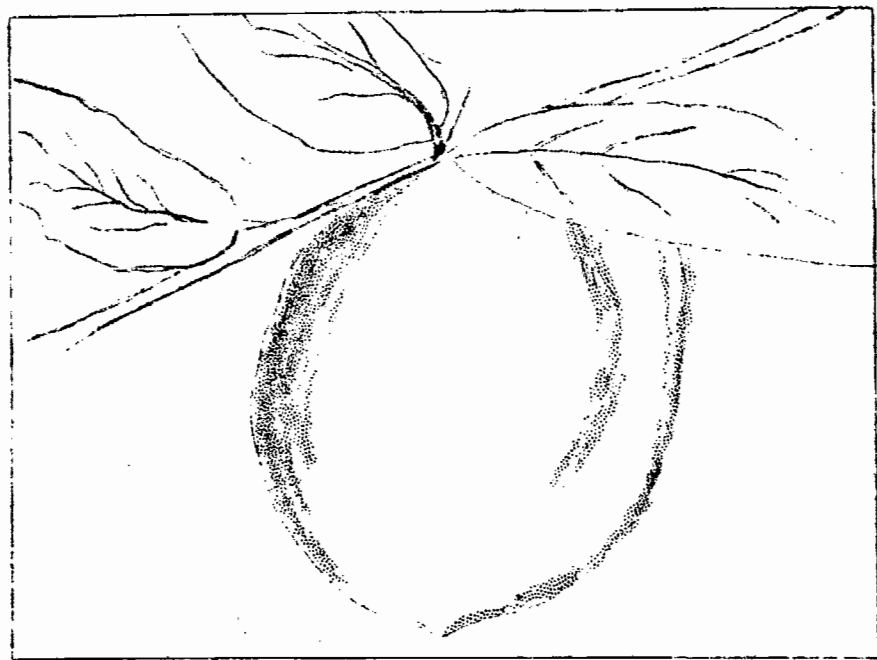


COSTS OF  
PRODUCING  
FREESTONES  
IN  
KINGS COUNTY



University of California  
College of Agriculture Extension Service  
Kings County

WHAT WILL IT COST TO PRODUCE FREESTONE PEACHES

Yield per Acre - 12 Tons  
(6 T. shipped & 6 T. Canned)

Man Labor @ .90 & \$1.00  
Light Tractor \$1.30 per Hr.

	Sample Costs		My Costs	
	per Acre	Per Ton	Per Acre	Per Ton
<b>Pre-harvest Labor and Material Costs:</b>				
Pruning: Contract 109 trees @ 55¢	\$59.95			
Brush Disposal: 1 hr. man & tractor	2.30			
Cover crop and fertilize: labor & material 1 lb. Nitrogen per tree	19.00			
Spray: 2X - apply 900 gal. @ 2¢	18.00			
Spray Material: dormant & foliage	25.00			
Cultivation & Irrig. prep. - man & tractor - 9 hrs.	20.70			
Irrigating: 4X - 15 man hrs.	13.50			
Water: pumping power 2½ Ac. ft. @ \$1.20	3.00			
Thinning: contract @ 50¢ per tree	54.50			
Prop & brace: 6 man & 2 tractor hrs.	8.20			
Misc: labor 4 man & 2 tractor hrs. material \$4.00	10.40			
<b>Total Pre-harvest labor and material</b>	<b>\$234.55</b>	<b>\$19.54</b>		
<b>Harvesting Costs:</b>				
Picking: 6 T. for shipping @ \$14 per ton	84.00			
Picking: 6 T. for cannery @ \$11 per ton	66.00			
Roadsiding & place bxs: 14 man & 7 tractor hrs.	23.10			
Misc. harvest labor: 4 man & 1 tractor hr.	5.30			
<b>Total Harvesting costs</b>	<b>\$178.40</b>	<b>\$14.87</b>		
<b>Cash Overhead Costs:</b>				
General Expense	20.65			
County taxes	8.50			
Repairs except field power	3.50			
Misc: comp. ins., etc.	9.00			
<b>Total Cash Overhead Costs</b>	<b>\$41.65</b>	<b>\$ 3.47</b>		
<b>Total Cash, Labor and Field Power Costs</b>	<b>\$454.60</b>	<b>\$37.88</b>		
<b>Depreciation Costs:</b>				
Trees (500 cost - 20 yrs. life)	25.00			
Irrigation facilities: original cost \$50	3.00			
Bldgs., equip., except tractor - cost \$100	14.50			
<b>Total Depreciation</b>	<b>\$42.50</b>	<b>\$ 3.54</b>		
<b>Interest on Investment @ 5%</b>				
Trees: on ½ original cost (\$250)	12.50			
Irrigation facilities - ½ original cost (\$25)	1.25			
Bldgs. & other equip.: ½ orig. cost (\$50)	2.50			
Land (bare) at \$500	25.00			
<b>Total Interest on Investment</b>	<b>41.25</b>	<b>3.44</b>		
<b>Total Cost of Production</b>	<b>\$538.35</b>	<b>\$44.86</b>		

The above costs do not include an allowance for management. Extra sprays, dusts or other special costs would also be additional.

## WHAT WILL IT COST TO PRODUCE

### FREESTONE PEACHES IN KINGS COUNTY

by

Lyndon C. Brown, Farm Advisor

Burt B. Burlingame, Extension Economist

There are 1336 acres of freestone peaches grown in Kings County, of this total, 1181 acres are in bearing and 155 acres are non-bearing. The 1952 crop was 11,457 tons of which nearly half was shipped fresh, the other half was sent to the cannery and quick freeze and only 95 tons were dried. Market preference for freestones is increasing, probably stimulated by higher incomes, and the repeat buying of those who have tasted freestones for the first time. Improved freezing facilities have provided other outlets. Because peaches are a perishable fruit, labor and expenses involved are high.

For the benefit of the freestone grower, this cost study has been worked up so that he can compare his costs with sample costs of growers in this area to see how his dollars are spent for producing peaches.

The cultural practices include:

Pruning: It is desirable to prune to three and never more than 4 scaffold branches with a fork on each scaffold about 5 - 6 feet high. The hangars should be left long to divide the fruit bearing surface evenly over the tree. Trees should be moderately pruned to insure adequate leaf area and a good crop.

Cover crops and Fertilization: Cover crops improve the tilth of the soil as well as helping to improve water penetration and available soluble nutrients. Purple vetch, cow peas, or a combination of vetch and barley has produced good results in this area. Purple vetch so far has out-yielded all others, "17 tons per acre in one orchard this year."

Mature trees require about one pound of actual nitrogen each year for full production. Fertilizer should be applied in the early spring.

Spraying: The spray program depends on the area and the individual orchardist. Dormant spray should be used for the control of "curly leaf" and shot hole and very often an oil spray plus parathion for olive scale. This should go on before the winter rains. If twig bore and fruit worm are a problem, a petal fall spray should also be applied. Good products are on the market for the control of the red spider mite.

Cultivation and Irrigation: Cultivation is used primarily for the control of weeds and preparing for irrigation. Ordinarily 4 or 5 cultivations are used during the season.

(Cont'd. on reverse side)

Irrigation is primarily by basin irrigation, although some growers furrow irrigate. About 30 inches of water is required for mature orchards. A 15 h. p. pump will produce about 900 gallons per minute, or 2 acre inches per hour. If 4 irrigations are applied during the year, about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  acre inches should be put on the land at each irrigation. This would mean running the pump about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours for every acre of fruit for each irrigation.

Thinning: Spacing of fruit on the tree is important in this operation. On a 20 X 20 foot planting, the grower should leave 830 fruit on each tree for 2- $\frac{3}{8}$  inch peach at harvest time for a ten ton yield. 1245 fruit (per tree) will produce 15 tons and 1660 fruit (per tree) will produce 20 tons if normal cultural practices are followed.

Picking: Is one of the biggest expenses of operation. Distribution of boxes in the orchard and efficient operation of the loaders is important to reduce costs. Mechanical loaders and adequate loading facilities have proven their value in time as well as money.

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