

1970**IRRIGATED,
CANE-PRUNED PREMIUM
WINE VARIETIES****VINEYARD ESTABLISHMENT COSTS
IN THE NORTH COAST COUNTIES**

It takes about 4 years from planting time to bring a vineyard into commercial bearing. Development costs for the first 3 years only are presented in this schedule since income from grapes produced in the fourth year is assumed to more than cover current costs. These data were developed in Mendocino, Napa, and Sonoma Counties for varieties such as Cabernet-Sauvignon, Sauvignon blanc, Chardonnay, Gewürztraminer, White Riesling, and Pinot noir.

Cost Analysis Worksheet
Showing Sample Costs

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COST ANALYSIS WORKSHEET

IRRIGATED, CANE-PRUNED PREMIUM WINE VARIETIES — Sample Costs of Establishing a Vineyard, 1970

Planted 8 feet by 12 feet, 413 vines per acre

	COST PER ACRE		
	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year
PREHARVEST CASH AND LABOR COST			
Land preparation (on level land)	\$ 20.00	\$	\$
Lay out and mark	14.50		
Distribute and set stakes	20.00		
Stakes (treated) — 2 x 2, 6 feet @ 40¢	165.20		
Dig holes (power auger)	15.00		
Rootstocks (certified) — @ 30¢ + tax; heel in and trim, \$2.40	132.50		
Plant vines — 413	14.00		
Bud and cover, including rubber ties	90.00		
Budwood (certified)	17.00		
Uncover and prune rootstocks		15.40	
Cut rubbers and tops, place collars		57.20	
End posts (treated) — 11 @ \$2.00; set @ 45¢			26.95
String 2 wires and staple			11.80
Wire — 200 pounds @ 15¢			30.00
Prune, tie, train, and brush disposal		14.30	14.30
Dusting — labor and material		6.50	14.00
Irrigation labor — 2 man-hours	4.40	4.40	4.40
Water — pumping power	5.00	6.00	7.00
Cultivation and hand hoe	17.00	17.00	17.00
Misc. labor and material, sucker, retying, rebudding, etc.	10.00	20.00	40.00
County taxes	40.00	40.00	40.00
Office, car, and general expenses	40.00	13.20	15.00
Repairs, except field power	8.00	8.00	8.00
Total Cash and Labor Cost	\$612.60	\$202.00	\$228.45

	COST PER ACRE		
	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year
DEPRECIATION COST PER ACRE			
Irrigation facilities — \$260 cost	\$ 16.25	\$ 16.25	\$ 16.25
Buildings and equipment	18.00	19.10	25.10
Total Depreciation Cost	\$ 34.25	\$ 35.35	\$ 41.35
Total Cash and Depreciation Cost	\$646.85	\$237.35	\$269.80
INTEREST ON INVESTMENT @ 7%			
Irrigation facilities — on ½ cost (\$130)	\$ 9.10	\$ 9.10	\$ 9.10
Buildings and equipment — on ½ cost	8.58	9.73	11.83
Land — @ \$2,000	140.00	140.00	140.00
Interest on accumulated cost	-----	56.32	88.00
Total Interest on Investment	\$157.68	\$215.15	\$248.93
TOTAL COST FOR YEAR	\$804.53	\$452.50	\$518.73
TOTAL ACCUMULATED COST*		\$1,257.03	\$1,775.76
		40 Acres	Per Acre
TOTAL INVESTMENT IN VINEYARD			
Establish vines — 3 years, no fruit credit	\$ 71,040		\$1,776
Well, pump, and portable sprinkler system	10,400		260
Equipment and equipment building (see production cost sheet for details)	13,520		338
Land (value shown for illustration only)	80,000		2,000
TOTAL**	\$174,960		\$4,374
Based on a 40-acre vineyard. Man labor @ \$2.20 and \$2.70/hour (includes compensation insurance and Social Security, but no allowance for housing or other benefits). Tractor cash cost/hour @ \$1.40.			

* Any net returns for grapes produced in the third year would reduce the total accumulated cost accordingly. On the other hand, total establishment costs would be higher if income in the fourth year failed to cover that year's costs.

** These establishment costs include a 2-wire trellis. Irrigation costs are based on a portable sprinkler system. Total investment does not include special land preparation and treatment, frost protection facilities, or fencing for deer and rabbit control. See notes on back page.

ABOUT THIS SHEET

This sheet gives sample costs for establishing an irrigated, cane-pruned premium wine grape vineyard in the north coast counties. Another sheet, AXT-226, provides production cost data for the same vineyards on a mature basis. Also available is a cost data sheet for a mature, head-pruned, nonirrigated vineyard, AXT-158. The information is for use as a guide in determining the costs of establishing a specific vineyard. It does not represent industry averages.

LAND PREPARATION - Costs shown are based on previously cropped and reasonably level valley land. Clearing, leveling, fumigation, etc. would be additional costs, unless reflected in the land value.

ROOTSTOCKS AND SCION WOOD - Plant only rootings and scion wood certified by the California Department of Agriculture. If certified buds are not available, carefully inspect the vines used to insure disease-free budwood.

TRAINING AND TRELLISING - Although a one-wire trellis may be sufficient for some varieties, the preferable two-wire trellis for most varieties is used in these sample costs.

FENCING - Temporary fencing for rabbits may be needed for the first 2 or 3 years of the vineyard. In some locations permanent fencing may be necessary for protection from deer and should be built when the vineyard is planted. Permanent fencing costs for both deer and rabbit control will vary considerably with the individual situation. Some growers have reported costs of \$1.00 per foot of installed fence.

FROST PROTECTION - An additional investment of \$500 to \$600 per acre could be expected if a permanent sprinkler system or a wind machine-heater combination for frost protection is provided. Refer to Agricultural Extension publication, *Frost Protection Costs for North Coast Vineyards*, AXT-267, available at the county Farm Advisors' office.

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