

Table 26. A Standard of Costs for Prune Orchards Having Different Average Yields

| Yield, dry tons per acre | .5 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 3.0 | 3.5 | 4.0 |
|--|-------------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Costs, dollars per acre | | | | | | | |
| Cultural labor costs | 10.00 | 14.50 | 25.00 | 28.75 | 31.00 | 33.00 | 34.50 | 36.00 |
| Propping, picking, hauling, and drying | 11.00 | 21.00 | 31.50 | 41.90 | 52.00 | 61.80 | 72.10 | 82.00 |
| Total labor cost | 21.00 | 35.50 | 56.50 | 70.65 | 83.00 | 94.80 | 106.60 | 118.00 |
| Total material cost | 1.50 | 5.00 | 12.00 | 15.30 | 18.00 | 20.50 | 23.00 | 25.00 |
| Total cash-overhead cost | 5.50 | 7.50 | 10.50 | 12.05 | 13.75 | 15.50 | 17.00 | 18.50 |
| Total current cash costs | 28.00 | 48.00 | 79.00 | 98.00 | 114.75 | 130.80 | 146.60 | 161.50 |
| Depreciation, trees and equipment | 13.00 | 15.00 | 21.50 | 22.18 | 23.00 | 23.75 | 24.50 | 25.00 |
| Subtotal, cash and depreciation costs | 41.00 | 63.00 | 100.50 | 120.18 | 137.75 | 154.55 | 171.10 | 186.50 |
| Interest on average investment at 5% | 15.00 | 17.00 | 22.00 | 23.75 | 25.00 | 26.00 | 28.00 | 30.00 |
| Total, all costs of production | 56.00 | 80.00 | 122.50 | 143.93 | 162.75 | 180.55 | 199.10 | 216.50 |
| | Costs, dollars per ton | | | | | | | |
| Cultural labor costs | 20.00 | 14.50 | 16.67 | 14.38 | 12.40 | 11.00 | 9.86 | 9.00 |
| Propping, picking, hauling and drying | 22.00 | 21.00 | 21.00 | 20.95 | 20.80 | 20.60 | 20.60 | 20.50 |
| Total labor cost | 42.00 | 35.50 | 37.67 | 35.33 | 33.20 | 31.60 | 30.46 | 29.50 |
| Material cost | 3.00 | 5.00 | 8.00 | 7.65 | 7.20 | 6.83 | 6.57 | 6.25 |
| Cash-overhead costs | 11.00 | 7.50 | 7.00 | 6.02 | 5.50 | 5.17 | 4.86 | 4.62 |
| Subtotal--current cash costs | 56.00 | 48.00 | 52.67 | 49.00 | 45.90 | 43.60 | 41.89 | 40.37 |
| Depreciation | 26.00 | 15.00 | 14.33 | 11.09 | 9.20 | 7.92 | 7.00 | 6.25 |
| Subtotal--cash and depreciation costs | 82.00 | 63.00 | 67.00 | 60.09 | 55.10 | 51.52 | 48.89 | 46.62 |
| Interest on investment | 30.00 | 17.00 | 14.67 | 11.88 | 10.00 | 8.66 | 8.00 | 7.50 |
| Total, all costs of production | 112.00 | 80.00 | 81.67 | 71.97 | 65.10 | 60.18 | 56.89 | 54.12 |

Prune orchards are found in many parts of the state and under a wide range of soil and climatic conditions. On shallow hillside soils without irrigation they cannot be expected to yield much above the annual average of 0.5 dry tons an acre, costs for which are shown in the first column of the above table. Costs in the first two columns above are representative of orchards on lands of low value where irrigation, fertilizing, covercropping, and spraying are omitted. Even under these conditions costs are higher a ton than in heavier yielding orchards. The costs shown for the 1.5 ton yield assume irrigation, covercropping and pest control. With the added costs of these operations, costs a ton at this yield are higher than in the 1 ton dry farmed orchard. This would indicate that where irrigation is practiced yields should be boosted by at least $\frac{1}{2}$ ton per acre if the addition of that operation is to be profitable. Costs shown above for yields of 2 tons and over assume increasing quantities of fertilization, pruning and spraying as well as better and more valuable land. It is doubtful if any orchard can maintain an average annual yield greater than 3 tons per acre, although yields of 5 and even 6 tons are heard of in single years; such heavy yields are harmful to the trees and the crop usually of low quality.