

# **SAMPLE COSTS TO ESTABLISH AN IRRIGATED, CANE-PRUNED PREMIUM WINE VARIETY VINEYARD IN THE NORTH COAST COUNTIES 1972**

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 Sauvignon blanc, Cabernet-Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Gewürztraminer, White Riesling, and Pinot noir.

*Prepared by: James V. Lider, Farm Advisor, Napa County; Robert L. Sisson, Farm Advisor, Sonoma County; Bruce E. Bearden, Farm Advisor, Mendocino County; A. N. Kasimatis, Extension Viticulturist, Davis; A. D. Reed, Extension Economist, Davis.*

**Agricultural Extension**

**University of California**

AXT-156

Rev. 6/72

UC Cooperative Extension

**SAMPLE COSTS OF ESTABLISHING AN IRRIGATED, CANE-PRUNED PREMIUM WINE VARIETY VINEYARD - 1972**

Planted 8 feet by 12 feet, 413 vines per acre

	Cost Per Acre		
	1st year	2nd year	3rd year
<b>PLANTING COST</b>			
Land preparation	\$ 23	\$	\$
Lay out and mark	15		
Distribute and set stakes	25		
Stakes - 413 @ 45¢	186		
Dig holes (power auger)	15		
Rootstocks (certified) - 413 @ 45¢	186		
Heel in and trim - @ 5¢	20		
Plant vines - 413	25		
<b>Total Planting Cost</b>	<b>\$ 495</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>CULTURAL COST</b>			
Bud and cover, including rubber ties	\$ 120	\$	\$
Budwood (certified)	20		
Uncover and prune rootstocks		19	
Cut rubbers and tops, place collars		90	
End posts (treated) - 11 @ \$2.50			28
Set - @ 45¢			5
String 2 wires and staple			14
Wire - 200 pounds @ 15¢			30
Prune, tie, train, and brush disposal		17	34
Dusting - labor and material		8	9
Irrigation labor - 1 man-hour	4	4	4
Water - pumping power	8	8	8
Repairs on irrigation system	9	9	9
Cultivation and hand hoe	20	20	20
Frost protection - labor		3	3
Power for .5" water		8	8
Misc. labor, material, and repairs	13	17	42
<b>Total Cultural Cost</b>	<b>\$ 194</b>	<b>\$ 212</b>	<b>\$ 223</b>

	Cost Per Acre		
	1st year	2nd year	3rd year
<b>OVERHEAD</b>			
Miscellaneous cash	\$ 32	\$ 8	\$ 11
Taxes	69	69	69
Interest	240	321	372
Depreciation	125	125	125
<b>Total Overhead</b>	<b>\$ 466</b>	<b>\$ 523</b>	<b>\$ 577</b>
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$1,155</b>	<b>\$ 735</b>	<b>\$ 800</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED COST</b>		<b>\$1,890</b>	<b>\$2,690</b>

Based on a 40-acre vineyard. Man labor @ \$2.75 and \$3.30/hour (includes compensation insurance and Social Security).

	Per Acre	Annual Cost	
		depre- ciation	interest @ 7%
<b>INVESTMENT COST</b>			
Land	\$2,500	\$ -	\$ 175
Irrigation and frost control	1,100	37	38
Buildings	40	13	1
Equipment	750	75	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,390</b>	<b>\$ 125</b>	<b>\$ 240</b>

	Per Acre	40 Acres
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT</b>		
Land	\$2,500	\$100,000
Vineyard	2,690	107,600
Irrigation and frost control	1,100	44,000
Buildings	40	1,600
Equipment	750	30,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,080</b>	<b>\$283,200</b>

## 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, and other practices could add a \$500 to \$700 cost per acre.

**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 ensure disease-free budwood.

**TRAINING AND TRELLISING** – Although a one-wire trellis may be sufficient for some varieties, the two-wire trellis is preferable for most varieties and 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 \$1.50 per foot of installed fence.

**FROST PROTECTION** – Detailed information on frost protection can be obtained from AXT-267, *Frost Protection Costs for North Coast Vineyards*, available at the county Agricultural Extension Farm Advisors' office.

Co-operative Extension work in Agriculture and Home Economics, College of Agriculture,  
University of California, and United States Department of Agriculture co-operating.  
Distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8, and June 30, 1914.  
George B. Alcorn, Director, California Agricultural Extension Service.