

C O S T S F O R E S T A B L I S H I N G
S T O N E F R U I T O R C H A R D S
I N
M E R C E D C O U N T Y



University of California
Agricultural Extension Service
Merced County

SAMPLE COSTS TO ESTABLISH A STONE FRUIT ORCHARD IN MERCED COUNTY - OCTOBER 1968

Based on a planting of 108 trees per acre of a non-patented variety. Man labor \$1.75 per hour total and equipment operator \$1.95. Medium wheel tractor per hour cash costs \$1.20, depreciation 70¢ and interest 28¢.

	Costs per Acre			
	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year
YIELD: TONS PER ACRE				
PRE-HARVEST CASH COSTS:				
Subsoil: Contract	\$12.00			
Disc: 1 hr., man and tractor	3.15			
Mark and stake: 2 man hrs.	3.50			
Pegs: 108 @ 5¢	5.40			
Dig holes: Contract 5¢	5.40			
Trees - 108 @ \$1.00	108.00			
Plant & prune: 5 man hrs. & 1 tractor hr.	10.15			
Replant 2nd year 2 trees @ \$1.50		3.00		
Prune & train: Starting 2nd year		10.50	21.00	47.25
Furrow out: 3 times each year	3.94	3.94	6.30	6.30
Fertilize: Handwork 3 yrs., drop spreader				
4th year	6.23	8.63	12.23	15.83
Irrigate: 6 times - Water	5.20	5.20	5.20	5.20
Labor 6 hrs., per acre	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50
Spray: materials & applicatcn	5.90	10.35	21.42	30.35
Disc 3S: 3 hrs., man & tractor	9.45	9.45	9.45	9.45
Hoe	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25
Taxes	21.31	21.31	21.31	29.06
Misc. labor & materials including				
1 hr. man & tractor	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Repairs to equipment - Ex. tractor	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
Office, car, business expenses	14.15	6.52	7.99	10.78
TOTAL PRE-HARVEST CASH COSTS	\$250.03	\$115.15	\$141.15	190.47
HARVESTING COSTS:				
Pick and roadside				
Misc. labor and tractor work				
TOTAL HARVESTING COSTS				
TOTAL CASH COSTS	\$250.03	115.15	141.15	190.42
DEPRECIATION:				
Irrigation system: \$100.00 cost 25 yr.	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Bldgs & equip. except tractor				
\$100 15 years life	6.67	6.67	6.67	6.67
Tractor: 70¢ per hour	5.08	3.68	4.20	4.55
TOTAL DEPRECIATION	\$15.75	14.35	14.87	15.22
INTEREST ON INVESTMENT @ 7%				
Irrigation system $\frac{1}{3}$ cost \$50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
Bldgs & equip. $\frac{1}{3}$ cost \$50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
Tractor: 28¢ per hour	2.03	1.47	1.68	1.82
Land: \$1,000 per acre	70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00
Interest on accumulated costs	0.00	24.14	40.38	59.64
TOTAL INTEREST ON INVESTMENT	79.03	102.61	119.06	138.46
TOTAL COST FOR THE YEAR	344.81	232.11	275.08	344.15
CREDIT FOR FRUIT				
NET COST PER YEAR	\$344.81	232.11	275.08	344.15
TOTAL ACCUMULATED COSTS	344.81	576.92	852.00	1,196.15