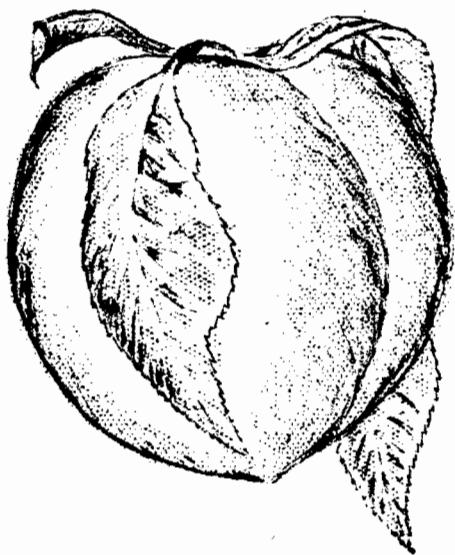


PH-VN-54-1

EFFICIENCY IN
PRODUCTION
OF
REGULAR ELBERTA PEACHES
IN
MERCED COUNTY



University of California
Agricultural Extension Service
Merced County

UC Cooperative Extension

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IN MERCED COUNTY

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Growers can compare their costs with the costs listed and may find places where they can reduce costs.

The figures represent typical costs obtained in interviews with growers in the Atwater, Winton, Livingston, and Delhi area.

Thinning: The widest variation was found in thinning costs. Some orchards were pole thinned for less than \$10.00 per acre. Over \$60.00 was spent in other orchards.

Irrigation: One man hour per acre per irrigation in some orchards. Other orchards required six man hours. High costs were usually due to factors hard to correct--uneven land, small pipe lines and small heads of water. These factors should be considered in planning new plantings.

TYPICAL COSTS FOR PRODUCING REGULAR ELBERTA PEACHES IN MERCED COUNTY
(Based on a yield of 12 tons per acre)

(Man labor @ \$1.00 per hr., except contract work; light tractor @ \$1.30; truck @ \$1.80)

	<u>Sample Costs</u>		<u>My Costs</u>	
	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Per Ton</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Per Ton</u>
<u>Pre-harvest Labor & Material Costs:</u>				
Pruning & brush disposal	\$ 55.00	\$ 4.58	\$	\$
Cover crop & fertilize: 3 man & 2 tractor hrs.	5.60	.47		
Cover crop seed & fertilizer: 1 lb. nitrogen per tree	20.00	1.67		
Spray: 2½ times at 250 gal/acre @ 1 3/4¢ gal.	10.95	.91		
Spray material	21.00	1.75		
Cultivation & irrigation preparation: 9½ man & tractor hrs.	21.85	1.83		
Irrigating: 10 man hrs.	10.00	.83		
Water: tax or pumping power cost	4.00	.33		
Thinning: 40 man hrs.	40.00	3.33		
Prop, brace, wire maintenance	8.25	.69		
Misc. labor: 4 man & 1 truck hrs.	5.80	.48		
Misc. material	3.00	.25		
Total Pre-harvest Labor & Material Costs	\$205.45	\$17.12	\$	\$
<u>Harvesting Costs:</u>				
Picking, sorting & supervision	\$120.00	\$10.00	\$	\$
Hauling (roadsiding): 14 man & 7 truck hrs.	26.60	2.22		
Misc. harvest labor: 4 man & 1 truck hrs.	5.80	.48		
Total Harvesting Costs	\$152.40	\$12.70	\$	\$
<u>Cash Overhead Costs:</u>				
General expense	\$ 18.22	\$ 1.52	\$	\$
County taxes	7.00	.58		
Repairs, except field power	8.00	.67		
Compensation insurance & other cash costs	9.00	.75		
Total Cash Overhead Costs	\$ 42.22	\$ 3.52	\$	\$
TOTAL CASH, LABOR & FIELD POWER COSTS	\$400.07	\$33.34	\$	\$
<u>Depreciation:</u>				
Trees: (\$500 cost - 20 yrs. bearing life)	\$ 25.00	\$ 2.08	\$	\$
Buildings, irrigation facilities, & equipment (except tractor & truck)	15.00	1.25		
Total Depreciation	\$ 40.00	\$ 3.33	\$	\$
<u>Interest on Investment @ 5%:</u>				
Trees: on ½ original cost (\$250)	\$ 12.50	\$ 1.04	\$	\$
Buildings, irrigation facilities, & equipment (except field power): on ½ original cost (\$110)	5.50	.46		
Land at \$400	20.00	1.67		
Total Interest on Investment	\$ 38.00	\$ 3.17	\$	\$
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION	\$478.07	\$39.84	\$	\$

February, 1954