

Table 4. A Standard of Inputs and Costs for Gravenstein Apples as they would occur in a mature orchard in Sonoma County, with a yield of 500 45-lb. boxes of orchard-run fruit per acre.

	Man	12 hp.	1½-ton	Cost	Cost
	labor	tractor	truck	per acre	per box
	Hours per acre			Dollars	Cents
Pruning	35.0			10.50	2.1
Brush disposal	3.0	1.0		1.75	.4
Haul and apply fertilizer	3.0		3.0	3.15	.6
Dormant spray	7.5	2.5		4.37	.9
Other sprays (3)	28.5	9.5		16.63	3.3
Cultivation, double disk 4 times	3.0	3.0		3.45	.6
Miscellaneous	4.0	1.0	1.0	2.80	.6
Subtotal, cultural labor	84.0	17.0	4.0	42.65	8.5
Thinning	30.0			9.00	1.8
Bracing and propping	3.0		.7	1.40	.3
Picking - 360 boxes from tree at 9¢	108.0			32.40	7.4
Picking - 140 boxes from ground at 3½¢	16.0			4.80	
Hauling - orchard to packing house	14.0		11.0	12.45	
Total labor cost	255.0	17.0	15.7	102.70	20.5
Fertilizer, 8 tons at \$1.00				8.00	1.6
Dormant spray - oil and spreader, \$2.25; rig, 25¢				2.50	.5
Other sprays (3)-62½ lb. lead, \$6.88; 94 lb. sulfur, \$3.52; spr., \$1.33; rig, 95¢				12.68	2.5
Miscellaneous other materials				2.00	.4
Total material cost				25.18	5.0
General expense, estimated at 5% of above costs				6.39	1.3
County taxes				5.00	1.0
Machinery and equipment repairs (except truck and tractor)				2.00	.4
Compensation insurance				1.00	.2
Total cash-overhead costs				14.39	2.9
Total cash costs				142.27	28.4
Investment and investment overhead based on 20-acre orchard unit	Original cost	Average investment	Interest at 5%	Average annual deprec.	
		Dollars an acre			
Trees (bearing life 40 years)	500.00	250.00	12.50	12.50	
Buildings & gen'l. improv.	40.00	20.00	1.00	1.00	
Tillage tools	15.00	7.50	.38	1.30	
Spray rig	25.00	12.50	.62	1.67	
Props and braces	16.00	8.00	.40	1.05	
Ladders, lug boxes & misc.	17.60	8.80	.44	1.96	
Land	250.00	250.00	12.50		
Total investment	863.60	556.80			
Total depreciation				19.48	
Subtotal, cash and depreciation costs				161.75	32.3
Total interest on investment at 5%			27.84	27.84	5.6
Total all costs				189.59	37.9

The above table is a computed standard of costs for a well-managed, owner-operated apple orchard in the Gravenstein apple district around Sebastopol. Costs are based on a yield of 500 boxes per acre which, although above the average for the district, should be attained in good, full-bearing orchards on suitable soil. About 360 boxes would be shipping fruit; 140 boxes sold for drying.

Labor costs per acre are based on the following rates per hour: man labor, \$0.30; 12-drawbar horsepower tractor, \$0.85; and 1½-ton truck, \$0.75. Depreciation on equipment and the truck and tractor rates are based on a 20-acre orchard unit. Where smaller acreages are served, these costs would be higher and would be somewhat lower on large acreages.