

VINEYARD ESTABLISHMENT COSTS IN THE NORTH COAST COUNTIES

GR-NC-66-2

IRRIGATED, CANE-PRUNED PREMIUM WINE VARIETIES

1966

It takes about 4 years to bring a vineyard into commercial bearing. Only the first 3 years' development costs are presented in this schedule, since income from grapes produced in the fourth year is figured to more than cover current costs. The data were developed in Mendocino, Napa, and Sonoma Counties for varieties such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon blanc, Chardonnay, Gewurztraminer, White Riesling, and Pinot noir.

Cost Analysis Worksheet
Showing Sample Costs

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COST ANALYSIS WORKSHEET

W. Reed

CANE-PRUNED, SPRINKLER-IRRIGATED, PREMIUM WINE VARIETIES – Sample Costs of Establishing a Vineyard, 1966*

Planted 8 feet by 12 feet — 413 vines per acre

	COST PER ACRE		
	1st Year	2d Year	3d Year
Yield – tons			1.5
PREHARVEST CASH & LABOR COST			
Land prep. (on level land)	\$ 12.50	\$	\$
Lay out & peg vine locations	10.00		
Dig holes (power auger)	11.00		
Rootstocks (certified) – @ 25¢ + heel-in & trim \$1.50	104.75		
Stakes (treated) – 2x2, 6 ft @ 25¢	103.25		
Plant vines & set stakes – 413	31.00		
Bud & cover, including rubber ties	70.00		
Budwood (inspected)	12.00		
Uncover & prune rootstock		11.00	
Cut rubbers & tops, place collars		40.00	
End posts (treated) – 11 @ \$1.25; set @ 30¢			17.05
String 2 wires & staple			8.25
Wire – 200 lb @ 15¢			30.00
Prune, tie, train, & brush disposal		10.00	10.00
Sulfuring, including sulfur		5.00	5.80
Spray once for mites, including material			12.50
Irrigation labor – 2 M-hr	3.10	3.10	3.10
Water – pumping power	5.00	6.00	7.00
Cultivation & hand hoe	12.00	12.00	12.00
Misc. labor & material, sucker, retying, rebud., etc.	6.60	13.20	26.40
County taxes	15.30	15.30	16.50
Office, car, & general expense (5% cash cost)	20.13	6.08	10.02

	COST PER ACRE		
	1st Year	2d Year	3d Year
Repairs, except field power	6.00	6.00	6.00
Total Preharvest Cash & Labor Cost	\$422.63	\$127.68	\$164.62
HARVESTING & TOTAL CASH COST			
Harvesting & hauling – @ \$30.50/ton			\$ 45.75
Total Cash & Labor Cost	\$422.63	\$127.68	\$210.37
DEPRECIATION COST			
Irrigation facilities – \$240 cost	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
Building & equipment	15.00	16.00	19.50
Total Depreciation Cost	\$ 30.00	\$ 31.00	\$ 34.50
Total Cash & Depreciation Cost	\$452.63	\$158.68	\$244.87
INTEREST ON INVESTMENT COST @ 6%			
Irrigation facilities – on ½ cost (\$120)	\$ 7.20	\$ 7.20	\$ 7.20
Building & equipment – on ½ cost	6.60	7.05	8.10
Land @ \$1,000	60.00	60.00	60.00
Interest on accumulated cost		31.59	47.46
Total Interest on Investment	\$ 73.80	\$105.84	\$122.76
TOTAL COST FOR YEAR	\$526.43	\$264.52	\$367.63
LESS INCOME FROM CROP @ \$200/TON			\$300.00
NET COST FOR YEAR	\$526.43	\$264.52	\$ 67.63
TOTAL ACCUMULATED COST	\$526.43	\$790.95	\$858.58

Based on a 40-acre vineyard. Man labor @ \$1.55 and \$1.75/hour (includes compensation insurance and Social Security, but no allowance for housing or other benefits). Tractor cash cost/hour @ \$1.25.

* Development costs in this table include a two-wire trellis and the annual operating and overhead costs for sprinkler irrigation. Original cost of the irrigation system is shown @ \$240/acre. Frost protection facilities, as well as fencing for deer and rabbit control, would be additional.

ABOUT THIS SHEET

This sheet is one of two on sample costs of establishing a wine grape vineyard in the north coast counties. The other is for establishment of an nonirrigated, head-pruned vineyard. Also available are data sheets on wine grape production costs for a mature, head-pruned, nonirrigated vineyard and a mature, cane-pruned, irrigated vineyard. The information is for use as a guide in determining the costs of establishing a specific vineyard. It does not represent industry average.

LAND PREPARATION – Costs shown are based on previously cropped and reasonably level valley land. Clearing, leveling, etc. would be additional costs, usually reflected in the land value.

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 buds used for freedom from disease.

TRAINING AND TRELLISING – Although a one-wire trellis may be sufficient for some varieties, the preferable two-wire trellis for most of such varieties 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 approaching 50 cents per foot installed.

FROST PROTECTION – Frost protection facilities would be an added costs. Investment and annual cash costs will vary considerably with the method, location, temperature variations, etc. Contact your county farm advisor for local information.

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