

SAMPLE INPUTS AND COST FOR WALNUTS
 Non-irrigated Orchard, yield 1500 pounds per acre

Small Orchard With Work Hired

OPERATION	COST PER ACRE	COST PER CWT.	YOUR COST			
Pruning 7 hours @ \$1.50	10.50					
Brush removal - contract	3.00					
Apply fertilizer - contract	2.00					
Cultivation & smooth for harvest						
Disk 4 x @ \$3, smooth \$3	15.00					
Dust once \$1.50, spray twice @ \$6	13.50					
Miscellaneous other work	3.00					
TOTAL CULTURAL WORK	47.00	3.13				
Harvesting, all operations contracted						
Shake, pick, haul, hull, dehydrate and deliver to processor @ 7¢ pound	105.00	7.00				
TOTAL WORK	152.00	10.13				
Fertilizer to furnish 60# of Nitrogen	9.00					
Spray & dust materials & miscellaneous	15.00					
TOTAL MATERIALS	24.00	1.60				
TOTAL LABOR & MATERIALS	176.00	11.73				
General expense at 5% of above	8.80					
County taxes, land trees, agri. area	25.00					
Insurance, liability, etc.	1.00					
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD	34.80	2.32				
TOTAL CASH COSTS	210.80	14.05				
Investment over-head based on a 40 acre unit	Original cost	Ave. value	6% int.	Dep.		
Trees development cost \$1000	40,000.00	500.00	30.00	25.00		
Misc. small equipment	100.00	1.25	.08	.25		
Land - \$1000	40,000.00	1000.00	60.00	-----		
Total Investment & Depreciation	80,100.00	1501.25	90.08	25.25		
Depreciation costs					25.25	1.68
Total Cash & Depreciation Costs					236.05	15.73
Total Interest on Investment					90.08	6.01
TOTAL ALL COSTS					326.13	21.74

Above is a sample of probable minimum costs typical of the small non-irrigated walnut orchard with practically all of the work hired from local contract operators. Yield at 1500 pounds is good and is for all nuts harvested and dried including culls. Many orchards have lower yields. A yield of 1000 pounds with all other costs the same except harvesting would have a total of \$291.13 per acre or 29¢ per pound.

LAND VALUE AND TAXES

The operations and costs outlined in this schedule are typical of many of the operators in Ygnacio Valley and San Ramon Valley.

Walnut orchards have been very desirable property for subdivision purposes. Since 1950 large amounts of land has been converted to other uses in this area and some larger parcels have been broken up for smaller ownerships. Growers have found that they can hire custom operators to handle these orchards at considerable less trouble and cost to them than owning and operating their own equipment.

If the yield drops below 1500 pounds per acre the cost of production soon gets out of the economical range for producing walnuts. Most of the land owners in these areas are more concerned about the cash costs than the total cost of production.

The average value of land in this schedule attempts to reflect the agricultural value rather than the market value for other uses. However, it is impossible to discount the appreciation in the value of walnut orchards because various people continue to buy property at high prices and continue to grow walnuts. This procedure probably represents an investment in real estate rather than an investment in farming.

CULTURAL PRACTICES

Growers should analyze their operation both from the standpoint of yield and quality of the crop produced.

The operations listed in this schedule should be the basis for you making some worthwhile comparisons with a typical situation in this area. A yield of 1500 pounds per acre or better can be obtained in areas where walnuts are growing in a deep, well-drained soil with the use of fertilizer and pesticides coupled with timely management practices.