

Table 6. Standards of Costs for Apples with Different Average Annual Yields for Sonoma and Santa Cruz Counties

Gross yield in 45-pound boxes per acre	125	250	375	500	625	750	875	1000	1125	1250
	Dollars per acre									
Cultural labor cost	30.00	35.00	39.00	42.65	46.00	49.50	53.00	60.00	63.00	65.00
Thinning, propping, harvesting	11.00	25.00	42.50	60.05	80.00	97.50	115.50	130.00	145.00	160.00
Total labor cost per acre	41.00	60.00	81.50	102.70	126.00	147.00	168.50	190.00	208.00	225.00
Material cost per acre	8.00	12.00	16.00	25.18	26.00	27.00	28.00	32.00	33.00	34.00
Cash overhead costs	8.00	10.00	12.00	14.39	16.50	18.25	19.50	23.00	25.00	27.00
Total current cash costs	57.00	82.00	109.50	142.27	168.50	192.25	216.00	245.00	266.00	286.00
Depreciation, trees & equipment	16.00	17.00	18.00	19.48	20.00	20.50	21.00	23.50	22.00	22.50
Subtotal, cash and depreciation	73.00	99.00	127.50	161.75	188.50	212.75	237.00	268.50	288.00	308.50
Interest on investment	20.00	22.50	25.00	27.84	29.00	30.00	31.00	33.00	34.00	35.00
Total all costs per acre	93.00	121.50	152.50	189.59	217.50	242.75	268.00	301.50	322.00	343.50
	Dollars per box, all orchard-run fruit									
Current cash costs	.46	.33	.29	.28	.27	.26	.25	.25	.24	.23
Cash and depreciation costs	.58	.40	.34	.32	.30	.28	.27	.27	.26	.25
Total cost of production	.74	.49	.41	.38	.35	.32	.31	.30	.29	.27

The above table presents a brief summary of costs as they are likely to be in orchards of different producing ability. Each column represents costs in an orchard having the average annual yield shown. The different columns do not represent cost-differences in the same orchard for seasons in which yields are quite different. It is assumed that a low-yielding orchard would be composed of rather small or stunted trees on poor and less valuable soil. Such an orchard would require less pruning and spraying and would, consequently, have lower cultural labor and material costs as well as lower harvesting costs. The 875-box orchard is very similar in costs to the standard shown in full detail in the preceding table. Orchards with yields of 1,000 boxes or above are assumed to require irrigation which naturally increases cultural costs per acre considerably. The better orchards are likewise expected to have larger trees and hence heavier pruning, spraying, and thinning costs per acre. They would also be on higher priced land and have higher interest on investment.

The above table may be used for roughly approximating cost of production in an orchard with a certain yielding ability in almost any apple district in California. All costs are based on the same labor rates and material prices used in the preceding two tables and hence may require further adjustments to local conditions. For example, an orchard in the foothills of El Dorado County with a yield of 250 boxes per acre would require an addition of \$10.00 an acre, or four cents a box, for irrigation.