

1968

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NONIRRIGATED, HEAD-PRUNED WINE VARIETIES

VINEYARD ESTABLISHMENT COSTS IN THE NORTH COAST COUNTIES

It takes about 4 years from the time of planting 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 assumed to more than cover current costs. The data were developed in Mendocino, Napa, and Sonoma Counties.

Cost Analysis Worksheet
Showing Sample Costs

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COST ANALYSIS WORKSHEET

HEAD-PRUNED, NONIRRIGATED WINE VARIETIES — Sample Costs of Establishing a Vineyard, 1968
Planted 8 feet by 12 feet — 413 vines per acre

	COST PER ACRE				COST PER ACRE		
	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year		1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year
PREHARVEST CASH AND LABOR COST				INTEREST ON INVESTMENT @ 6%			
Land preparation (on level land)	\$ 15.50	\$	\$	Buildings and equipment — on ½ cost	\$ 6.60	\$ 7.05	\$ 8.10
Lay out and peg vine location	13.00			Land — @ \$1,500	90.00	90.00	90.00
Dig holes (power auger)	13.50			Interest — on accumulated cost	<u> </u>	<u>36.72</u>	<u>55.13</u>
Rootstocks (certified) — @ 25¢ + heel in and trim, \$2.00	105.25			Total Interest on Investment	\$ 96.60	\$133.77	\$153.23
Stakes (treated) — 2x2, 6 feet @ 27¢	111.51			TOTAL COST FOR YEAR	\$611.99	\$306.85	\$293.69
Plant vines and set stakes — 413	40.00			TOTAL ACCUMULATED COST*		\$918.84	\$1212.53
Water by tank 2 weeks before budding	30.00						
Bud and cover, including rubber ties	80.00						
Budwood (inspected)	12.00						
Uncover and prune rootstock		14.00					
Cut rubbers and tops, place collars		52.00					
Prune, tie, train, and brush disposal		13.00	13.00	TOTAL INVESTMENT IN VINEYARD			
Sulfuring, including sulfur		6.00	7.00	Establish vines — 3 years, no fruit credit	\$ 48,480	\$1,212	
Spray once for mites, including material			13.00	Equipment and equipment building (see production cost sheet for details)	11,400	285	
Cultivation and hand hoe	15.00	15.00	15.00	Land (value shown for illustration only)	60,000	1,500	
Misc. labor and material, sucker, retying, rebudding, etc.	8.80	17.60	35.20	TOTAL**	\$119,880	\$2,997	
County taxes	27.00	27.00	27.00				
Office, car, and general expenses (5% cash cost)	23.83	7.48	5.76				
Repairs, except field power	5.00	5.00	5.00				
Total Cash and Labor Cost	\$500.39	\$157.08	\$120.96				
DEPRECIATION COST							
Building and equipment	\$ 15.00	\$ 16.00	\$ 19.50				
Total Cash and Depreciation Cost	\$515.39	\$173.08	\$140.46				

Based on a 40-acre vineyard. Man labor @ \$2.00 and \$2.40/hour (includes compensation insurance and Social Security, but no allowance for housing or other benefits). Tractor cash cost/hour @ \$1.30.

* Any net returns for grapes produced in the third year would reduce the total accumulated cost accordingly. On the other hand, total establishment costs would be higher if income in the fourth year failed to cover that year's costs.

** Establishment costs and total investment shown in this table do not include any allowance for special land preparation and treatment, trellising, irrigation, frost protection, or fencing for deer and rabbit control.

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 irrigated vineyard planted to cane-pruned premium varieties. 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 averages.

LAND PREPARATION – Costs shown are based on previously cropped and reasonably level valley land. Clearing, leveling, fumigation, etc. would be additional costs, unless 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 – This cost sheet assumes the head system, ordinarily used in older vineyards for most spur-pruned varieties. Cordon training may be employed to advantage on vigorously growing varieties planted on fertile soils. This would involve installation of at least a one-wire trellis. Costs for a two-wire trellis are shown in the data sheet for establishing a premium variety vineyard. For particulars on training, see University of California Leaflet 111, *Spacing and Training Grapevines*.

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 of 50 to 60 cents per foot of installed fence.

FROST PROTECTION – An additional investment of \$500 to \$800 per acre could be expected if a permanent sprinkler system or a wind machine-heater combination for frost protection is provided. Refer to Agricultural Extension publication, *Frost Protection Costs for North Coast Vineyards*, AXT-267, available at the county Farm Advisors' office.

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