

**SAMPLE COSTS TO  
PRODUCE NONIRRIGATED,  
HEAD-PRUNED  
WINE GRAPES  
IN THE  
NORTH COAST COUNTIES  
1972**

The sample costs presented in this sheet are mainly for the production of standard varieties in older nonirrigated vineyards. The data were developed in Mendocino, Napa, and Sonoma Counties.

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**SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS FOR STANDARD WINE VARIETIES IN OLDER NONIRRIGATED VINEYARDS – 1972**

	Cost Per Acre	Cost Per Ton	Your Cost
<b>CULTURAL COST</b>			
Pruning – average 600 vines @ 8¢	\$ 48	\$	\$
Brush disposal (chopper) – .5 hour	3		
Sulfuring 4 times (power duster) – 1.2 hours	6		
Sulfur – 50 pounds @ 6¢	3		
Spraying for mites – once @ 2¢/gallon	6		
Spray material (miticide)	7		
Apply commercial fertilizer – .5 hour	3		
Fertilizer – 50 pounds N @ 12¢	6		
Cultivation, 4 times over – 4 hours	20		
Misc. labor, materials, repairs, etc.	34		
<b>Total Cultural Cost</b>	<b>\$136</b>	<b>\$ 27</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>OVERHEAD</b>			
Miscellaneous	\$ 10	\$	\$
Taxes	73		
Depreciation	141		
Interest	258		
<b>Total Overhead</b>	<b>\$482</b>	<b>\$ 96</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Total Preharvest Cost</b>	<b>\$618</b>	<b>\$123</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>HARVESTING COST</b>			
Picking – 5 tons @ \$28/ton	\$140	\$ 28	\$
Supervision – 4 man-hours @ \$3.30	14	3	
Move gondolas and misc. – 2 hours	8	2	
Haul to winery – @ \$3/ton	15	3	
<b>Total Harvesting Cash Cost</b>	<b>\$177</b>	<b>\$ 36</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$795</b>	<b>\$159</b>	<b>\$</b>

Based on a 40-acre vineyard with a yield of 5 tons/acre. Man labor @ \$2.75 and \$3.30/hour (includes compensation insurance and Social Security).

	Per Acre	Annual Cost	
		depreciation	interest @ 7%
<b>INVESTMENT COST</b>			
Land	\$2,500	\$ –	\$175
Vines	1,600	53	56
Buildings	40	13	1
Equipment	750	75	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,890</b>	<b>\$141</b>	<b>\$258</b>

Tons	Picking Cost		Haul	Other Costs Per Acre	Total Cost	
	per ton	per acre			per acre	per ton
<b>COSTS AT VARYING YIELDS</b>						
3	\$50	\$150	\$ 9	\$640	\$799	\$266
4	40	160	12	640	812	203
5	28	140	15	640	795	159
6	28	168	18	640	826	138
8	28	224	24	640	889	111

	Total	Per Acre
<b>MACHINERY INVESTMENT</b>		
Tractor – 40 hp track	\$19,400	\$
Pickup	3,200	
Disc 10'	950	
Chopper 6'	2,000	
Duster	700	
Fertilizer spreader	420	
Gondolas	1,500	
Miscellaneous	1,830	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$750</b>

## ABOUT THIS SHEET

This is one of two sheets available on wine grape production costs in north coast counties. The other cost sheet, AXT-226, is for irrigated, cane-pruned premium wine varieties. Costs for establishing premium wine variety vineyards are given in AXT-156. The input and cost data are to be used only as guides in determining the production costs for a specific vineyard and to help growers analyze costs and practices that would increase production efficiency. The figures shown are based on good management practices. They do not represent industry averages.

**YIELD** - The yield of 5 tons per acre is above average for the area, but is below that attained in some vineyards. This figure is typical of an attainable annual average for the better vineyards that follow the recommended cultural practices included in the costs.

**IRRIGATION** - The added investment for sprinkler irrigation facilities might be about \$260 per acre. Annual costs covering depreciation and interest on the system, plus power and labor costs, probably would run from \$35 to \$40 an acre a year.

**DEER FENCING** - In some vineyards, permanent fencing may be an added cost. Annual overhead and maintenance costs might be from \$5 to \$7 an acre.

**FROST PROTECTION** - Frost protection facilities would be an added cost. 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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