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SAMPLE INPUTS AND COSTS FOR PRUNES IN SAN BENITO COUNTY

With a Yield of 2.2 Tons of Dried Fruit per Acre

Investment overhead based on a 40 acre orchard with 20 acres of prunes

	Hours per acre			Cost per acre	Cost per ton
	Man labor	30 hp. tractor	2-ton truck		
Pruning, average annual at 50¢ per tree	30.0			\$ 35.50	
Brush disposal, large wood only	2.0		1.0	4.25	
Spraying, 3 times, plus borer spray	3.5	2.0	(1.5 sp)	10.33	
Cultivation & furrowing or checking	6.5	6.5		17.73	
Irrigation 3 times	18.0			22.50	
Miscel. cover crop, etc.	6.0	0.5	1.0	9.55	
Total cultural labor & field power	66.0	9.0	2.0	99.86	\$ 45.39
Propping, bracing, etc.	3.0		1.0	5.25	2.39
Picking & shaking, 5.5 fr. tons @ \$11.00	55.0			60.50	27.50
Supervision, hauling & misc. harvest	8.0	(2.0 f)	2.0	16.00	7.27
Dehydrating 5.5 tons at \$14				77.00	35.00
Hauling dehydrator to market	2.0		1.0	4.50	2.05
Total harvesting & fruit handling	68.0	(2.0 f)	4.0	163.25	74.21
Total labor and field power	134.0	9.0	6.0	263.11	119.60
Irrigation, power to pump 16 acre inches 100' lift				5.75	
Spray materials, fungicides & insecticides				22.00	
Miscel. materials, cover crop seed, etc.				5.00	
Total material costs				32.75	14.88
Total labor & material costs				295.86	134.48
General expense, office, car, etc., estimated at 5% of above				14.79	
County taxes, land & trees \$450, eqt. \$80 at 4.25%				22.53	
Repairs other than included in above rates				5.00	
Insurance, compensation \$4.00, other - soc. sec., liab. & fire \$1				5.00	
Total cash overhead costs				47.32	21.51
Total cash costs				343.18	155.99
Investment overhead based on a 40-acre orchard unit with 20 acres of prunes	Original cost	Aver. value	6% int.	Depreciation	
		Dollars per acre			
Trees-cost \$600, 40 yr. life	\$24,000	300.00	18.00	15.00	
Building for equipment	2,000	25.00	1.50	1.70	
Irrigation system	7,000	87.50	5.25	8.75	
Tillage equipment	2,000	25.00	1.50	3.00	
Tractor, pickup, forklift, truck	14,000	175.00	10.50	24.00	
Sprayer	6,000	75.00	4.50	10.00	
Miscel. ladders, lugs, props, etc.	4,000	50.00	3.00	5.00	
Land	40,000	1000.00	60.00		
Total investment & deprec.	99,000	1737.50		67.45	30.66
Total cash & depreciation costs				410.63	186.65
Interest on investment at 6%			104.25	104.25	47.39
Total all costs except management				514.88	234.04

Labor costs above are figured at the following hourly rates: skilled labor \$1.25, other labor \$1.00, 30 hp. crawler tractor \$1.60, fork lift \$1.00, air carrier sprayer \$1.50, and 2-ton truck \$2.00. These equipment rates are cash costs only, for fuel, oil, repairs and insurance and license in case of the truck. Average value of items that depreciate is assumed at half of the original cost to approximate average book or remaining value over the years of useful life.

University of California
Agricultural Extension Service

Mollister
September, 1961

PRUNE PRODUCTION IN SAN BENITO COUNTY

Ronald H. Tyler, Farm Advisor

Arthur Shultis, Extension Economist

Prune production is an important industry in San Benito County. The total acreage is 3,320 acres. According to the Agricultural Commissioner's Report of 1960, the prune crop grossed \$1,781,180 from 2,982 bearing acres. French prunes are the major variety, followed by a much smaller acreage of Imperials.

Requirements:

A medium textured soil, having a depth of at least five to six feet, is the most suitable for prune production. Heavy adobe, or soils underlain with clay, are not satisfactory. Abundant water of good quality is required for irrigation, since this fruit cannot be produced with profit in this area without irrigation.

Size of business:

The equipment needed in an orchard will often serve more acres than one operated by a single grower. The smallest orchard that could justify owning all the equipment needed would be at least 40 acres. Investment overhead costs on the reverse side of this sheet are based on this total acreage with 20 acres of prunes. The additional acreage may be in apricots, walnuts or pears. Outside custom work also offers opportunities to reduce the equipment overhead. Orchardists with smaller acreages would probably arrange to hire some of the work done in preference to owning expensive equipment. Older used equipment is often available.

Yield is important to profit. With costs per acre about the same prior to harvest, the higher the yield the lower the total cost per ton. We used 2.2 tons per acre as the yield in the detailed schedule on the other side of the sheet. With the same growing and overhead costs per acre we show below the costs for five different yields.

COSTS PER ACRE AND PER TON WITH VARYING YIELDS PER ACRE

Yield, dry tons per acre	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	4.0
Cost per acre except propping and harvest	\$343.47	\$343.47	\$343.47	\$343.47	\$343.47
Fruit handling at \$77.92 per ton*	116.88	155.84	194.80	233.76	311.68
Total cost per acre	460.35	499.31	538.27	577.23	655.15
Total cost per ton	306.90	249.66	215.31	192.41	163.79

* Includes 5% general expense