

Agricultural Extension Service
University of California
Post Office Bldg., Colusa

PRUNE PRODUCTION IN COLUSA COUNTY

The acreage planted to Prunes has decreased slightly in the past ten years. The 1956 report shows about 3400 acres of bearing trees and 200 acres non-bearing.

They require a deep well drained soil and for that reason most orchards are located adjacent to the Sacramento River. Most of the orchards are large, 100 acres or more, in order to utilize good equipment for spraying, harvesting and drying. Thirty or forty acres are considered good economic units where hauling, spraying and drying are contracted.

The cost of developing an orchard is \$1200 to \$1500 an acre with land at \$600, trees \$800, irrigation system \$100.

The costs on the following page assume contract dehydration. If this operation is performed on the ranch it would require an additional investment of about \$15,000.

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE PRUNES IN COLUSA COUNTY - 1958

by

N. W. Stice, Farm Advisor

Philip S. Parsons, Extension Economist

Based on 60 acres

Yield - $2\frac{1}{4}$ dry tons per acre

Labor \$1.00 to \$1.50 hr.

Operation, Crew and Equipment	Hours Per Acre	Cash and Labor Cost Per Acre			Cost Per Acre	Cost Per Dry Ton
		Labor	Fuel and Repairs	Materials		
Cultural:						
Prune	20	\$30.00			\$30.00	
Brush Disposal	1	1.00	\$1.00		2.00	
Spray - 3 times	2.25	5.63	12.00	\$24.00	41.63	
Disk - 6 times	2.4	3.60	3.40		7.00	
Ridge - man, tractor, ridger	.2	.30	.25		.55	
Irrigate - 2 times	7.0	10.50		Water 1 ac. ft. 5.00	15.50	
Plant Cover Crop	.2	.30	.30	Seed 2.25	2.85	
Total Cultural					\$99.50	\$44.23
Harvest:						
Float - man, tractor, float	.5	.75	.65		1.40	
Knock, pick - 25¢ per 40 lb. box		(280 boxes x 25¢)			70.00	
Haul to dehydrator - 5.6 tons green					11.20	
Dehydrate - 5.6 tons @ \$15.00					84.00	
Total Harvest					\$166.60	\$74.04
Cash Overhead:						
Taxes					6.00	
Insurance, Telephone, Miscellaneous					10.00	
Total Cash Overhead					\$16.00	7.11
Total Cash Cost					\$282.13	\$125.39
Depreciation - Trees and Buildings, 30 years; Equipment, 15 years					50.36	22.38
Interest on Investment - 5% of 1/2 cost of Equipment, Trees, Buildings; 100% of Land					59.10	26.27
Total Cost					\$391.59	\$174.04
Cost per Pound087

PRUNE INVESTMENT -- COLUSA

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Approximate Cost New</u>
Tractor - 30 H.P.	\$5,900
Disk - 8'	800
Sprayer - speed sprayer	4,200
Float	50
Ridger	600
Pruning Equipment	200
Harvest Equipment:	
Boxes	800
Pole, Mallets, Buckets, etc.	100
Brush Sled	100
Miscellaneous	100
	<u>\$12,850</u>
Buildings - not including dwelling	5,000
Trees - 60 acres @ \$800	48,000
Irrigation System, well, pump, pipe	4,000
Land - 60 acres @ \$600	36,000
Total Investment.....	<u>\$105,850</u>
Per Acre.....	1,762

150 cc
6/30/58