

SAMPLE INPUTS AND COSTS FOR PRUNES IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Mature Orchard with a yield of 2.5 Dried Tons per acre

| | Hours per acre | | | | Cost Per Acre | Cost Per Dry Ton |
|---|------------------------------|------------------|------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| | Man Labor | Tractors | | Truck Etc. | | |
| | | C30 | W20 | | | |
| Pruning | 25.0 | | | | 31.25 | |
| Brush disposal | 1.8 | | 0.6 | | 3.00 | |
| Cultivation, mowing and harvest preparation | 5.0 | 4.0 | 1.0 | | 14.40 | |
| Spraying, 3 times, incl. \$1.50 hr. sprayer | 1.5 | 1.5 | | (1.5 sp) | 6.75 | |
| Irrigate, 4 times, using sprinkler | 8.0 | | 1.0 | | 10.90 | |
| Prop, Tie, Wire, etc. | 5.0 | | | 2.0 | 10.75 | |
| Misc., fertilize, cover crop, borer control | 8.0 | .5 | .5 | 1.0 | 13.95 | |
| Total cultural labor and field power | 54.3 | 6.0 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 91.00 | 36.40 |
| Snake and pick, 6.25 T at \$12.00 a ton | 60.0 | | | | 75.00 | 30.00 |
| Supervision, loading, box work, hauling | 10.0 | | 1.0 | 2.0 | 19.15 | 7.66 |
| Dehydrating at \$12 a ton, contract | | | | | 75.00 | 30.00 |
| Total Harvesting | 70.0 | | 1.0 | 2.0 | 169.15 | 67.66 |
| Total labor and field power | 124.3 | 6.0 | 4.1 | 5.0 | 260.15 | 104.06 |
| Irrigation water, power to pump 20 A. in., 250' head | | | | | 12.80 | |
| Fertilizer 80 lb. nitrogen at 15¢ | | | | | 12.00 | |
| Spray materials | | | | | 18.00 | |
| Misc. materials, cover crop, borer control | | | | | 7.00 | |
| Total material cost | | | | | 49.80 | 19.92 |
| Total labor, field power and materials | | | | | 309.95 | 123.98 |
| General expense, office, car, etc., estimated at 5% of above | | | | | 15.50 | |
| County taxes, land & trees \$35, other improvements and equipment \$5. | | | | | 40.00 | |
| Repairs to equipment not covered by hourly rates | | | | | 5.00 | |
| Compensation insurance \$5.00, Soc. Security \$1.00; other \$1.00 | | | | | 7.00 | |
| Total cash overhead costs | | | | | 67.50 | 27.00 |
| Total cash costs | | | | | 377.45 | 150.98 |
| Investment overhead based on an orchard unit of 80 acres, any part of which may be prunes | Original cost 80 acres | Dollars per acre | | | | |
| | | Average Value | 6% Int. | Depre- ciation | | |
| Trees, cost \$900 an acre, 30 yrs. | 72,000 | 450.00 | 27.00 | 30.00 | | |
| Building for equipment | 4,000 | 25.00 | 1.50 | 2.00 - | | |
| Irrigation System | 15,000 | 93.75 | 5.63 | 12.20 | | |
| Tractors, truck, pick-up, etc. | 15,200 | 95.00 | 5.70 | 15.00 - | | |
| Tillage equipment | 2,600 | 16.25 | .98 | 2.75 - | | |
| Sprayer | 6,000 | 37.50 | 2.25 | 7.50 - | | |
| Misc. equipment, props, etc. | 6,400 | 40.00 | 2.40 | 6.00 - | | |
| Housing for help-can vary consid. | 8,000 | 50.00 | 3.00 | 5.00 | | |
| Land, at agricultural value | 120,000 | 1,500.00 | 90.00 | ----- | | |
| Total investment & deprec. | 249,200 | 2,307.50 | | 80.25 | 80.25 | 32.10 |
| Total cash & deprec. costs | | | | | 457.70 | 183.08 |
| Interest on Investment | | | 138.46 | | 138.46 | 55.38 |
| TOTAL ALL COSTS | | | | | 596.16 | 238.46 |

Labor and power costs above are figured at the following hourly rates: Tractor and truck driver \$1.50; other orchard labor \$1.25; 30 h.p. crawler tractor \$1.50; 20 h.p. wheel tractor with forklift \$.90; air carrier sprayer engine \$1.50; 2 ton truck \$2.00. These equipment rates are cash costs only for fuel, oil, repairs and also license and insurance for the truck.

Rate value per acre upon which interest is computed is estimated at half of the original cost for depreciable items, since over useful life they decline to salvage or zero value.

Fruit & Nuts

PRUNES IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY
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September 21, 1961

Importance of Prune Industry - The California Crop and Livestock Reporting Service gives the following acreage estimates for Santa Clara County as of 1960: bearing - 31,631; non-bearing - 2,324; Total - 33,955. This represents about 40 percent of the bearing acreage and about 32 percent of the total acreage in the state.

Production - The following table shows the acreage, yield, and value of prunes for the past five years, as reported by the Agricultural Commissioner. The decrease in prune acreage is primarily due to displacement by urban development in the northern half of the county.

PRUNE PRODUCTION IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY

| Year | ALL VARIETIES | | | FRENCH | | | | |
|------|-----------------|------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|------------|---------------|-------------|
| | Bearing Acreage | Total Tons | Total Value | Bearing Acreage | Ave. Yield | Total Tons | Price Per Ton | Total Value |
| 1956 | 36,827 | 84,450 | 14,535,000 | 33,884 | 2.4 | 80,000 | 165 | 13,200,000 |
| 1957 | 36,002 | 73,400 | 13,073,300 | 33,034 | 2.1 | 70,150 | 172 | 12,065,800 |
| 1958 | 35,238 | 48,845 | 16,998,200 | 32,273 | 1.5 | 46,950 | 340 | 15,959,000 |
| 1959 | 32,434 | 61,800 | 21,797,500 | 29,838 | 2.0 | 58,400 | 350 | 20,440,000 |
| 1960 | 31,755 | 56,200 | 20,320,100 | 29,254 | 1.8 | 52,900 | 360 | 19,044,000 |

Adaptation - Prunes are grown on a wide variety of soils, although a deep, well-drained, medium-textured soil is preferred. Very heavy soils are objectionable in the prune trees growing on them are usually small, unthrifty and low yielding. Prunes can be grown on sandy or gravelly soils, but more frequent irrigation will be required. One of the most common limiting factors in prune production is soil moisture. An adequate supply of readily available moisture throughout the year is essential for maximum yield and size of fruits. More critical observation of soil moisture conditions and more frequent irrigations to avoid deficiencies is resulting in increased production in many orchards.

Harvesting - Prunes are generally hand shaken and picked from the ground into lug boxes, although there is considerable interest in mechanization. The use of mechanical shakers can be expected to increase. Bulk bins may be introduced in the near future and eventually replace lug boxes. Mechanical pickup machines have been developed and work satisfactorily under proper conditions. It may be possible to use catching frames in a multiple harvest operation without sacrificing yield or quality.

Yield - Yield is one of the most important factors in determining cost per ton. Costs shown on the other side of this sheet are for a good commercial yield of 2.5 tons of dried fruit per acre, but yields are greatly influenced by frost and other climatic conditions. In this type of orchard if costs other than harvesting were the same, costs per ton would vary with yields as shown below.

SAMPLE COSTS WITH VARYING YIELDS

| Yield in dry tons per acre | 1.5 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 3.0 | 3.5 | 4.0 |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| All costs except harvesting | 418.55 | 418.55 | 418.55 | 418.55 | 418.55 | 418.55 |
| Harvesting Cost at \$71.04 per ton* | 105.56 | 142.08 | 177.61 | 213.12 | 248.64 | 284.16 |
| Total Cost per acre | 525.11 | 560.63 | 596.16 | 631.67 | 667.19 | 702.71 |
| Cost Per dry ton | 350.07 | 280.32 | 238.46 | 210.56 | 190.63 | 175.68 |

*-- includes 5% general expense.