

Table 5. A Standard of Inputs and Costs for Late Apples in a mature orchard in Santa Cruz County, with a yield of 850 47-lb. boxes of orchard-run fruit per acre.

	Man	12 hp.	1½-ton	Cost	Cost
	labor	tractor	truck	per acre	per box
	Hours per acre			Dollars	Cents
Pruning	60.0			18.00	2.1
Brush disposal	4.0	2.0		2.90	.4
Planting cover crop	1.0	1.0		1.15	.1
Haul and apply fertilizer	1.0		1.0	1.05	.1
Dormant spray	8.4	2.8		4.90	.6
Other sprays (3)	31.5	10.5		18.38	2.2
Cultivation, disk 4 times	3.0	3.0		3.45	.4
Miscellaneous	4.0	1.0	1.0	2.80	.3
Subtotal, cultural labor	112.9	20.3	2.0	52.63	6.2
Thinning	120.0			36.00	4.3
Bracing and propping	6.0		1.5	2.92	.3
Picking 720 boxes from tree at 6¢	144.0			43.20) 5.6
Picking 130 boxes from ground at 3½¢	15.3			4.59	
Hauling	30.0		22.0	25.50	3.0
Total labor cost	428.2	20.3	25.5	164.84	19.4
Fertilizer, 300 lbs. commercial @ \$2.00 per cwt.				6.00	.7
Covercrop seed				2.50	.3
Dormant spray (560 gal.) oil and spreader, \$3.36; rig oper., \$.28				3.64	.4
Other sprays (3), 75.6 lb. lead at 11¢, \$8.32; spreader, \$1.47; rig, \$1.05				10.84	1.3
Miscellaneous other materials				2.00	.2
Total material cost				24.98	2.9
General expense, estimated at 5% of above costs				9.49	1.1
County taxes				5.00	.6
Repairs to equipment (except tractor and truck)				2.00	.2
Compensation insurance				1.70	.2
Total cash-overhead cost				18.19	2.1
Subtotal, total current cash costs				208.01	24.4
Investment and investment overhead based on a 20-acre orchard unit	Original cost	Average investment	Interest at 5%	Depreciation	
	Dollars an acre				
Trees	500.00	250.00	12.50	12.50	
Buildings & gen'l. improv.	40.00	20.00	1.00	1.00	
Tillage tools	15.00	7.50	.38	1.30	
Spray rig	25.00	12.50	.62	1.67	
Props and braces	30.00	15.00	.75	2.00	
Ladders, lug boxes & misc.	24.40	12.20	.61	2.45	
Land	300.00	300.00	15.00		
Total investment	934.40	617.20			
Total depreciation				20.92	
Subtotal, cash and depreciation costs				228.93	26.9
Total interest on investment at 5%			30.86	30.86	3.7
Total all costs				259.79	30.6

The above table is a computed standard of costs for a well-managed, owner-operated apple orchard in the Santa Cruz County apple district around Watsonville. Costs are based on a yield of 850 boxes per acre which, although above average, is attainable in good, full-bearing orchards on good soil and without irrigation.

Labor costs per acre are computed at the following rates per hour: man labor, \$0.30; 12-drawbar horsepower tractor, \$0.85; and 1½-ton truck, \$0.75. The truck and tractor rate as well as investment-overhead charges, is based on the use of these facilities in a 20-acre orchard.