

CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS. U.S. Department of Agriculture, University of California, and Orange County co-operating.

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
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SUMMER-PLANTED STRAWBERRIES SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS
Orange-Los Angeles Counties (1971)

The table on the reverse side shows sample costs for producing summer-planted strawberries in Orange and Los Angeles Counties. The cost data summary was made to help the grower better analyze the economics of his strawberry operation. The sample costs represent typical costs of efficient commercial operations in Orange and Los Angeles Counties. They are presented only as a guide and do not represent the industry's average costs of production.

Sample costs are based on the following assumptions:

1. The land being farmed has been planted to strawberries for at least two consecutive years and is proven berry ground.
2. The crop is grown as an annual, requiring land-leveling, fumigation, and replanting each year.
3. The operation is a ten-acre planting on leased land in Los Angeles or Orange County.
4. The farm is owner-operated with no charge made for management.
5. Water costs are based on cost of well water. Water from other sources such as metropolitan and municipal water districts would be more expensive.
6. Sample costs are preharvest costs only. Harvesting costs, including trays, baskets, clips, and picking, range between \$0.80-1.25 for each 12 pint tray of fruit. A 5-10¢ per tray handling charge should also be included.
7. Principal varieties grown are Fresno and Tioga.
8. Summer-planted strawberries produce about 4000 12-pint trays/acre in Orange County

Prepared by: H. Leonard Francis, Farm Advisor, Orange and Los Angeles Counties and Robert C. Rock, Extension Economist, University of California, Riverside, in cooperation with the strawberry growers of Orange and Los Angeles Counties.

Cost Item, Operation & Equipment	Hours Per Acre	Costs Per Acre			Total Cost
		Hired Labor	Tractor & Equipment	Material--kind & amount--cost	
Remove old plastic from bed	12	\$24.00			\$ 24.00
Disc, plow, level 6 times, chisel 4 times furrow, harrow	15	37.50	\$ 27.50		65.00
Grade, stake	5	12.50			12.50
Fumigate (contract)	2	4.00		250 lb. 2MB + 1 CP 3/4 to 1 mil polyethylene \$325.00	329.00
Planting - hand work	45	90.00			90.00
Planting - tractor and driver	2	5.00	4.00	30,000 plants @ \$22/1000	669.00
Fertilize 3 to 6 times, preplant and postplant	4	10.00	6.00	manure & chemical	170.00
Irrigate: Preplant furrow, 1 time	2	5.00		6" @ \$1.70(well water)	10.20
Sprinkler 20 times (tractor & booster pump)	50	100.00	55.00	30" @ \$1.70	51.00
Furrow 24 times	48	120.00		36" @ \$1.70	61.20
Weed 3 times, remove runners 3 times	60	120.00			120.00
Prune old leaves	50	100.00			100.00
Polyethylene bed mulch:Application & train plants through poly during growth	45	90.00		200 lb. 1 1/4 mil 32" per- forated @ \$0.35	70.00
Replant	5	10.00		2,000 plants @ \$22/1000	44.00
Pest control 6 times	3	7.50	5.00	Pesticides	60.00
Equipment repairs	8		20.00	Parts	30.00
Land Rent					300.00
Miscellaneous overhead					30.00
TOTAL PREHARVEST CASH COSTS					\$2664.40
Investment		Depreciation		Interest	200.00
Item	Total	Per Acre	Per Acre	Per Acre	Interest
Tractor & implements	\$10,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 100.00	\$ 37.50	TOTAL COSTS PER ACRE EXCEPT HARVEST
1-ton pickup, covered	4,000	400	40.00	15.00	
Sprinkler System 1/2 hr @ 40-50 lb pressure	3,000	300	30.00	11.25	
Shed, carts, handtools, & misc.	3,000	300	30.00	11.25	
TOTAL	\$20,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 200.00	\$ 75.00	
					\$2939.40