

This cost study is designed to give prospective apricot growers an idea of the costs involved in establishing an apricot orchard in Western Merced County. Costs may vary widely. These costs we feel are typical of a good orchard although they may not be average.

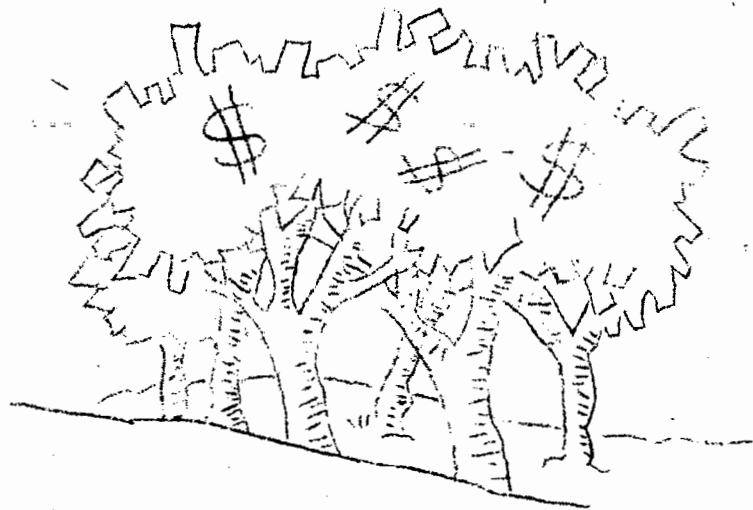
Some return on the investment may be realized in as few as four years or as many as five to six years.

As with all tree fruits and nuts, the choice of location is vital. The land cost of \$1000 per acre assumes that the grower will be planting on alkali - free, deep, well-drained loams or clay loams. In Western Merced County the bulk of the commercial apricot orchards are planted on Sorrento or Mocho Series soil of the loam, sandy loam, silty loam, or clay loam types.

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# Cost of Establishing Apricots



Western Merced County  
Fall 1968

SAMPLE COSTS TO ESTABLISH AN APRICOT ORCHARD IN WESTERN MERCED COUNTY ---- 1968

Based on a planting of 40 acres at 75 trees per acre, spaced 24'x24'.  
 All labor at \$2.00 per hour total. Medium wheel tractor per hour cash costs \$1.20, depreciation 70¢ and interest 28¢. Older 40 h.p. Crawler tractor \$1.50, 80¢ and 30¢.

	COSTS PER ACRE			
	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year
Yield: Tons Per Acre	0	0	0	2.5
<u>PRE-HARVEST CASH COSTS:</u>				
Sub-Soil: Contract	11.60			
Disc: 2 hrs. man & 40 h.p. Crawler	7.00			
Mark for holes - 2 man hrs.	4.00			
Dig holes	3.75			
Trees: 75 @ \$100	75.00			
Plant & Prune: 5 man hrs, 1 WD40 hr.	11.20			
Re-Plant 2nd year 2 trees @ 1.50		3.00		
Prune & Train - Starting 2nd yr.		7.50	18.75	30.00
Furrow: 4X 2 hrs. man & 2 WD40 hrs.	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40
Irrigate 6 times	12.00	12.00	16.00	16.00
Spray Program: materials and application	10.00	10.00	15.00	20.00
Disc 6X: 6 hrs. man & 40 h.p. Crawler	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00
Hoe: 2 man hrs.	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Taxes: @ \$7.04/\$100	17.60	17.60	17.60	21.10
Misc. labor and materials	10.00	10.00	15.00	15.00
Repairs to equip. except tractor	15.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Office, Pickup, Business Costs (6%)	11.91	6.09	7.43	8.61
<b>TOTAL PRE-HARVEST CASH COSTS</b>	<b>220.46</b>	<b>107.59</b>	<b>131.18</b>	<b>152.11</b>
<u>Harvesting Costs:</u>				
Pick & roadside - Contract \$25.00 per ton	0.00	0.00	0.00	62.50
<b>TOTAL HARVESTING COSTS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>62.50</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH COSTS</b>	<b>220.46</b>	<b>107.59</b>	<b>131.18</b>	<b>214.61</b>
<u>DEPRECIATION:</u>				
Irrigation System \$180.00 - 20 yr.	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
Bldgs. & equip. except tractors: \$100.00 cost - 15 yr.	6.67	6.67	6.67	6.67
Tractors	8.50	6.20	6.20	6.20
<b>TOTAL DEPRECIATION</b>	<b>24.17</b>	<b>21.87</b>	<b>21.87</b>	<b>21.87</b>
<u>Interest on Investment @ 7%:</u>				
Irrigation system: 1/2 cost \$90.00	6.30	6.30	6.30	6.30
Bldgs. & equip. except tractors: 1/2 Cost \$50.00	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
Tractors	3.24	2.36	2.36	2.36
Land \$800.00 per acre	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00
Interest on accumulated costs	0.00	21.96	37.33	55.43
<b>TOTAL INTEREST ON INVESTMENT</b>	<b>69.04</b>	<b>90.12</b>	<b>105.49</b>	<b>123.59</b>
<b>TOTAL COST FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>313.67</b>	<b>219.58</b>	<b>258.54</b>	<b>360.07</b>
CREDIT FOR FRUIT AT \$100 per ton	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
<b>NET COST FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>313.67</b>	<b>219.58</b>	<b>258.54</b>	<b>110.07</b>
<b>TOTAL ACCUMULATED COST</b>	<b>313.67</b>	<b>533.25</b>	<b>791.79</b>	<b>901.86</b>