

Asd Reed

Modesto, California
October, 1950

PH-VN-50

Agricultural Extension Service
Stanislaus County
By A. A. Jungerman, Farm Advisor

CLINGSTONE PEACHES FOR STANISLAUS COUNTY

Growing of clingstone peaches is a successful type of farming for those areas in Stanislaus County where the soils are adapted to the economical production of peaches. Good annual clingstone production of quality fruit is essential for success in this enterprise. Stanislaus County has been one of the leading cling producing counties in the state. Its soil and climate have been favorable for economical peach production. Cling peaches are one of the major enterprises among its horticultural crops. The present acreage planted should not be expanded unless the market outlook is for increased tonnage.

Requirements -- The deeper sandy loam soils with good drainage are the best suited for successful production of cling peaches. They require four to six irrigations per season depending upon the soils and weather conditions. The total water requirement varies, but 30 to 36 acre inches should be sufficient for average conditions. With a program of efficient soil management and fertilization, production can be maintained.

Market outlook -- The outlook for cling peaches is such that present producing acreage in California is sufficient to fill market needs. The State Marketing Order the past two years was directed to regulate the total pack because of excess tonnage. Therefore, caution should be exercised in making new plantings.

Yield -- The yield varies according to varieties, management, and soils. The average yield for No. 1 clings in Stanislaus County for a number of years has been 12 to 13 tons per acre. Early varieties will produce a smaller average yield than the late varieties. To have an economical production, an average yield of delivered No. 1 peaches to the cannery should be between 12 to 15 tons. Yields as high as 35 tons have occurred but are exceptions. Yields of 20 tons are quite common under efficient orchard management.

How large an acreage? -- At least 20 acres for a minimum economic unit under present conditions. It would be advantageous to have additional acreage in order to justify equipment and sufficient help to perform some of the operations. Smaller acreage is dependent upon outside help for some of the operations such as spraying for diseases and pest control, and others for cultural operations such as cultivation and irrigation preparation.

Planting recommendations -- On the better soils a distance of 22 feet between rows is recommended. On less productive soils 20 foot distance can be used. It is recommended that a grower have at least several varieties. This facilitates harvesting and other cultural operations. Varieties recommended for very early deliveries include Fortuna and Shasta, followed by the Andora, Cortez, Paloro, Peak, late Mids such as Gaume, Halford, and late clings including Gomes and Sullivan No. 4, Wisner and Phillips. For particular variety recommendations or time of ripening, see the local Agricultural Extension Service.

Cost of producing peaches -- The average investment in a bearing orchard other than land will come to approximately \$350 per acre which includes cost of bringing the trees to full bearing and value of equipment and buildings. The average cost of producing a 10-ton crop of No. 1 clings per acre in Stanislaus County is \$42.50 per ton at the present time. A 15-ton per acre crop can be produced for approximately \$33 per ton. For further details on peach growing, see the Agricultural Extension Service.

What Will it Cost to Produce Cling Peaches in Stanislaus County

Based on a yield of 12 tons of No. 1 fruit per acre?

Man labor at \$.85 and \$1.00 per hr.; tractor at \$1.50 and truck at \$1.50 per hr.

	<u>Sample Costs</u>		<u>My Costs</u>	
	Per Acre	Per Ton	Per Acre	Per Ton
LABOR COSTS:	\$		\$	
Pruning and brush disposal - 50 man and 2 truck hrs.	53.00			
Cover crop and fertilizer - 3 man and 2 truck hrs.	5.55			
Spraying and dusting - 12 man and 4 tractor hrs.	16.20			
Thinning - 90 man hrs.	76.50			
Cultivation and irrigation prep. - 7 man and 7 tractor hrs.	16.45			
Irrigation - 5 man hrs.	4.25			
Propping and bracing - 6 man and 2 truck hrs.	8.10			
Miscellaneous labor - 4 man, 1 tractor and 1 truck hr.	6.40			
Total pre-harvest labor cost	186.45	15.53		
Picking at 12¢/box and foreman	75.00	6.25		
Hauling (roadsiding) - 14 man and 7 truck hrs.	22.40	1.87		
Miscellaneous harvest labor - 4 man and 1 truck hr.	4.90	.41		
Sub-total harvest labor	102.30	8.53		
Total labor cost	288.75	24.06		
MATERIAL COSTS:				
Irrigation tax or power cost	2.80			
Cover crop seed and fertilizer	18.50			
Spray and dust material	18.75			
Miscellaneous	1.50			
Total material cost	41.55	3.46		
CASH OVERHEAD COSTS:				
General expense	16.52			
County taxes	10.00			
Repairs	4.00			
Insurance	6.00			
Other cash costs	.20			
Total cash overhead	36.72	3.06		
Total cash costs	367.02	30.58		
DEPRECIATION:				
Trees - (\$400 cost - 20 yrs. life)	20.00			
Buildings, irrig. facilities and equipment	15.00			
Total depreciation	35.00	2.92		
INTEREST ON INVESTMENT @ 5%:				
Trees -(Av. value \$200)	10.00			
Bldgs., irrig. facilities and equip. (Av. value \$110)	5.50			
Land at \$400	20.00			
Total interest on investment	35.50	2.96		
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION	437.52	36.46		