

Table 24. A Standard of Costs for Pear Orchards Having Different Average Yields

Yield, tons harvested per acre	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
	Costs, dollars per acre									
Cultural labor	17.25	26.30	35.60	42.40	50.35	55.55	60.75	65.95	71.30	76.90
Harvesting and fruit handling	8.56	17.12	25.68	34.24	42.80	51.36	59.92	68.48	77.04	85.60
Total labor cost	25.81	43.42	61.28	76.64	93.15	106.91	120.67	134.43	148.34	162.50
Material cost	5.55	9.25	16.00	20.15	23.74	25.14	26.54	27.96	29.40	30.70
Cash-overhead cost	5.82	8.25	10.81	12.60	15.34	16.54	17.75	18.95	20.00	21.06
Total cash cost	37.18	60.92	88.09	109.39	132.23	148.59	164.96	181.34	197.74	214.26
Depreciation, trees, and equipment	10.80	13.25	20.70	22.50	23.80	25.20	26.60	28.00	29.45	30.65
Total cash and depreciation cost	47.98	74.17	108.79	131.89	156.03	173.79	191.56	209.34	227.19	244.91
Interest on investment at 5%	13.55	17.60	24.70	24.85	24.95	25.60	26.40	27.20	28.00	28.50
Total all costs	61.53	91.77	133.49	156.74	180.98	199.39	217.96	236.54	255.19	273.41
	Costs, dollars per ton									
Total current cash costs	18.59	15.23	14.68	13.67	13.22	12.38	11.78	11.33	10.99	10.71
Total cash and depreciation costs	23.99	18.54	18.13	16.49	15.60	14.48	13.68	13.08	12.62	12.25
Total, all costs	30.77	22.94	22.25	19.59	18.10	16.62	15.57	14.78	14.18	13.67

The above table shows probable production costs as they would occur in orchards of different yielding ability. They do not represent costs for different yields in the same orchard but rather costs for orchards having the average annual yield shown at the head of each column. To a certain extent some yields and costs are more typical of one area than another. For example, yield groups of from 8 to 16 tons may be said to be typical of the orchards on good deep soils in the bottom lands of Lake, Mendocino, Sonoma, Santa Clara, and Sacramento counties, except that they would be higher in some districts because of blight control. The 2- and 4-ton yields show costs suitable to non-irrigated orchards on the poorer bench land soils of the coast counties. Costs shown above for yields of 6 tons and over provide for irrigation, and those shown for 8 tons and over provide for fertilization. No costs shown above are designed as being typical for the foothill area of Placer and El Dorado counties but the 6-ton yield comes the closest.

The above costs are doubtless below the average in the state for orchards of the yields shown. They are based on the most economical operations and general management. Many orchards will have higher water, blight control, and spraying costs, or higher taxes. The state average yield per acre over the 10-year period, 1927 to 1936, inclusive, was 3.4 tons per acre for the so-called bearing acreage. The production per acre on fully mature or full bearing acreage was probably 4 to 4.5 tons, and that on the young bearing acreage was much lower than 3.4 tons. However, the costs shown above for the 4-ton yield cannot be taken as representative of the state.