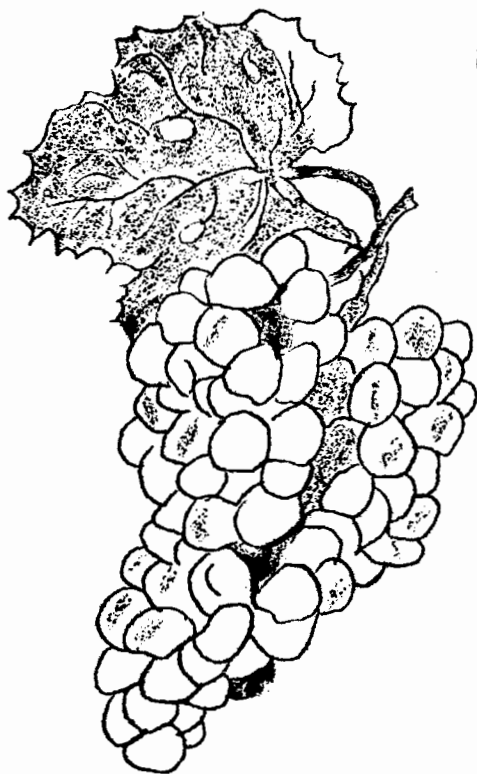


Calif. Univ. Agric. Ext. Service
San Bernardino co.

Wine Grape Production Costs



**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO**

1961

WINE GRAPE PRODUCTION AND COSTS

Production costs presented in this publication do not represent the cost of grape growing for any one San Bernardino County grower. They are averages of operations performed by various growers.

Each grape producer may find his cost of production by selecting those operations he performs, and modifying costs where desirable. To find where over-all efficiencies may be increased, calculate production costs for each variety of grape produced.

Many vineyards have one or more low producing varieties that consistently cost more to raise than the value of picked fruit. Accurate vineyard costs can be obtained only by separating production costs by variety or vineyard block.

CULTURAL OPERATIONS

Pruning. Head pruning is the method best adapted to local vineyard conditions. In some cases a "Christmas tree" shaped head has been desirable for maximum production on vigorous varieties.

Harvesting. Truck-mounted tanks, plastic or metal picking boxes, and ramps to facilitate dumping of full boxes make an efficient combination. Low four-wheel gondola trailers have been tested and proven feasible and desirable in certain vineyards. They offer certain advantages to producers and pickers, but investment costs may prevent their use in some county vineyards.

Cultivation. Sweep-type weed knives are used extensively to cut weed and cover crop roots and save

moisture. Small tractors will handle weed knives and cover a greater acreage than possible with heavier equipment used for discing. Discing may be necessary to bury cover crops and prunings, if they are creating a favorable environment for insect and disease buildup.

Pest Control. One treatment for cutworms is made at bud swell. A second dusting is given as the leafhoppers commence mating and are found damaging grape leaves. Sulfur for mildew prevention is often applied during the first leafhopper application.

Two other sulfur dustings are made: Once when the shoots are 12 to 18 inches long, and again before mid-June. If overwintering leafhoppers are not controlled in the spring, growers apply control measures in June for the newly hatched leafhoppers.

Fertilizer. Tests indicate that grapevines respond primarily to nitrogen. Some response to potash has been noted in isolated cases, but none has been found in this county. A maximum of 80 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre is recommended where yields are 8 to 10 tons per acre. Greater amounts may reduce fruit production.

Irrigation. Some vineyards are irrigated in late winter during short rainfall years. In most cases, split applications are suggested: One to assure sufficient moisture in the top 8 to 10 feet of soil from late spring to mid-summer; the second to assure sufficient moisture until harvest. Insufficient summer soil moisture limits growth and production in this area more than any other factor.

Frost. Vineyard soils should be low in moisture from harvest until complete dormancy. Spring growth of varieties susceptible to frost injury can be held back by pruning in early November or late March.

WINE GRAPE PRODUCTION COSTS IN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

APRIL 1961

450 Acre Vineyard

	A	B	C
Vineyard Operations	Assume excellent mgmt. practices employed with unlimited irrigation. Planting 8'x12' with an average yield of 6½ tons per acre.	Assume good mgmt. practices with semi-dry farm conditions; restrict irrigation practices. Planting 8'x12' with average yield of 3½ tons per acre.	Assume minimum mgmt. with dry farm conditions. Plantings 10'x10' with average yield of 1 3/4 tons per acre.

CULTURAL PRE-HARVEST*	Costs		Costs		Costs	
	Per Acre	Per Ton	Per Acre	Per Ton	Per Acre	Per Ton
Pruning and trunk suckering (winter)	\$20.00	\$3.10	\$12.00	\$3.45	\$10.00	\$5.70
Shredding brush	2.25	.35	2.75	.75	2.25	1.30
Seeding cover crop	1.50	.25	1.50	.45	--	--
Weed knifing (2 ways) 2x	13.00	2.00	13.00	3.70	2.50	1.45
Take-away plow (2 ways) 1x	1.50	.25	1.50	.45	1.50	.85
Hoing around vines	5.00	.80	5.00	1.40	5.00	2.85
Fertilizing	.75	.10	.75	.20	.75	.40
Irrigate (summer) 2x	10.00	1.50	5.00	1.40	--	--
Disease control	.75	.10	.75	.20	--	--
Insect control 1x	3.95	.60	3.95	1.10	2.95	1.55
Total Cultural Costs	\$58.70	\$9.05	\$46.20	\$13.10	\$24.95	\$14.10

MATERIALS						
Water 12"	\$ 8.00	\$1.20	6" \$ 4.00	\$ 1.15	--	--
Cover crop seed 10#	3.00	.45	3.00	.85	--	--
Fertilizer N (60#)	7.20	1.10	4.80 (40#)	1.35	3.60 (30#)	2.05
Disease & Pest (DDT, S)	5.35	.80	5.35	1.50	4.00	2.30
Total Material Costs	\$23.55	\$3.55	\$17.15	\$ 4.85	\$ 7.60	\$4.35

HARVEST						
Picking, Hauling	\$42.15	\$6.50	\$26.25	\$ 7.50	\$15.00	\$8.55

CASH OVERHEAD						
General Expense (Bookkeeping, office, phone, insurance)	\$ 3.20	\$.45	\$ 3.20	\$.90	\$ 3.20	\$1.80
Taxes	20.00	3.05	20.00	5.70	12.00	6.85
Total Cash Overhead	\$23.20	\$3.50	\$23.20	\$ 6.60	\$15.20	\$8.65

TOTAL CASH COSTS	\$147.60	\$22.60	\$112.80	\$32.05	\$62.75	\$35.65
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*Labor costs are figured at \$1.25 hourly rate

NON CASH COSTS

<u>Investment per acre</u>				
ITEM	A & B		C	
Land	\$2500.00		\$1500.00	
Building	12.00		12.00	
Equipment	42.00		24.55	
Irrigation	130.00		--	
Vines	700.00		700.00	
	<u>\$3384.00</u>		<u>\$2236.55</u>	
<u>Interest and Depreciation per acre</u>				
ITEM	A & B		C	
	Dep.	Int. 6%	Dep.	Int. 6%
Land	\$ --	\$150.00	\$ --	\$ 90.00
Building	.60	.35	.60	.35
Equipment	4.10	1.25	2.85	.75
Irrigation	4.30	3.90	--	--
Vines	23.30	21.00	23.30	21.00
	<u>\$32.30</u>	<u>\$176.50</u>	<u>\$26.75</u>	<u>\$112.10</u>
Total Per Acre				
Non Cash Overhead	\$208.80		\$138.85	

SUMMARY OF ALL COSTS

ITEM	A	B	C
Cultural	\$ 58.70	\$46.20	\$24.95
Material	23.55	17.15	7.60
Harvesting	42.15	26.25	15.00
Cash Overhead	23.20	23.20	15.20
Non Cash Overhead	208.80	208.80	138.85
	<u>\$356.40</u>	<u>\$321.60</u>	<u>\$201.60</u>
TOTAL ALL COSTS (Per Acre)	\$356.40	\$321.60	\$201.60

We wish to express our appreciation to many San Bernardino County vineyardists for their cooperation; and to A. N. Kasimatis, Extension Viticulturist, University of California at Davis, and Fisk Phelps, Extension Economist, University of California at Riverside, for their counsel and assistance in the compilation of the cost data in this leaflet.

....Chet Hemstreet

....John Van Dam

Farm Advisors, San Bernardino County

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OTHER CIRCULARS YOU MAY FIND USEFUL:

Preservative Treatment for Grape Stakes and Posts

Some Virus and Virus-like Diseases of Grapevines

Predicting Nitrogen Response in Vineyards

Spacing and Training Grapevines

Grape Pests in California

Supports for Grapevines

Vineyard Planting Stock

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