

AM-SV-81-1

Almond Production Costs On  
Class I Soils In Sacramento Valley, 1981

Based on Yield at 2,000 lbs (meats) per acre on 100 acre orchard.  
75 trees per acre, 26 ft diagonal spacing.  
Labor @ \$4.50/hr-unskilled and \$6.00/hr-skilled, total costs to grower.

Pre-Harvest Costs	Total Costs	
	per acre	per lb (meat)
Pruning: 10 hrs labor	\$ 45.00	
Brush disposal	17.45	
Fertilizer: 250 lbs @ 31¢ + \$5.00 application	82.50	
Spray 6x: materials and application	225.00	
Irrigation & frost protection: 2-1/2 ac.ft.@\$25	62.50	
labor: 1 hr	4.50	
Weed control: strip spray 2x materials & appl.	20.00	
Flail mow 6x	27.00	
Pollination service: 2-1/2 hives @ \$20	50.00	
Taxes	90.00	
Misc labor & field power(including replanting)	40.00	
Misc. repairs	40.00	
Supervision	50.00	
Office and business costs	60.32	
Interest on operating capital @ 15%	61.07	
<b>TOTAL PRE-HARVEST COSTS</b>	<b>875.34</b>	<b>.44</b>
<b>Harvesting Costs</b>		
Shake: 1 hr	13.70	
Poling: 4 hr	18.00	
Sweep: 1 hr	9.10	
Pick-up & haul: 2 hrs	17.25	
Custom hull: 3-1/2c/lb in-shell weight	127.26	
<b>TOTAL HARVESTING COSTS</b>	<b>185.31</b>	<b>.09</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH COSTS</b>	<b>1,060.65</b>	<b>.53</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
Irrigation system, \$1,640, 15 yrs	109.33	
Bldgs and equipment, \$1,590, 10 yrs	159.00	
Trees: \$4,500, 20 yrs	225.00	
<b>TOTAL DEPRECIATION</b>	<b>493.33</b>	<b>.25</b>
<b>Interest on Investment @ 14%</b>		
Irrigation system, \$820	114.80	
Bldgs and equipment, \$795	111.30	
Trees: \$2,250, 20 yrs	315.00	
Land: \$5,000	700.00	
<b>TOTAL INTEREST ON INVESTMENT</b>	<b>1,241.10</b>	<b>.62</b>
<b>TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION</b>	<b>2,795.08</b>	<b>1.40</b>

Sample Costs At Varying Yields

	2,182	2,545	2,909	3,273	3,636	4,000	4,364
Yield: Pounds/ac in-shell	2,182	2,545	2,909	3,273	3,636	4,000	4,364
Yield: Pounds/ac meats	1,200	1,400	1,600	1,800	2,000	2,200	2,400
Cash Costs/lb meats	\$ .84	\$ .73	\$ .65	\$ .58	\$ .53	\$ .49	\$ .45
Total Costs/lb meats	\$2.29	\$1.97	\$1.73	\$1.55	\$1.40	\$1.28	\$1.18

The above figures represent typical costs for the Sacramento Valley. They are not intended to indicate averages or exact costs. Individuals may use this cost study as a guide in evaluating their specific operation costs.

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**Equipment Investment For Almond Production On  
Class I Soils In Sacramento Valley, 1981**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Tractor, 60 HP WD	\$16,000
Tractor, 30 HP WD	4,000
Orchard sprayer	28,000
Weed sprayer and boom, trailer mounted	2,000
12 ft chopper	3,600
11 ft flail mower	3,500
Front End Loader w/brush attachment	3,000
Chain saw and misc pruning equipment	1,000
Thermometers and frost alarm	500
Soil moisture measuring equipment	400
Misc equipment and shop tools	5,000
Pickup	9,000
Building	20,000
<u>Harvesting Equipment</u>	
Pickup machine, tractor mounted	10,000
Knocker	35,000
Sweeper, SP	10,000
Carts, 4	8,000
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TOTAL INVESTMENT	\$159,000
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Per acre on 100 acres	\$ 1,590
Depreciation per acre	\$ 159
Interest per acre	\$ 111.30
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<u>Irrigation System</u>	
2 wells	\$ 13,000
2 pumps	24,000
Filters	7,000
Pipes, heads, risers, mains, etc.	120,000
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TOTAL	\$164,000
	= \$ 1,640 per acre

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