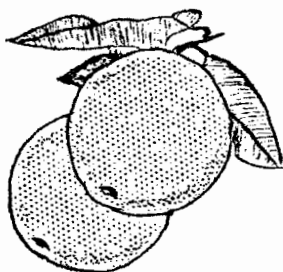


OR-VS-54

# NAVEL ORANGE

## PRODUCTION COSTS IN TULARE COUNTY



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE  
POST OFFICE BUILDING, VISALIA  
TULARE COUNTY

WHAT DOES IT COST YOU TO PRODUCE NAVEL ORANGES IN TULARE COUNTY?

Yield basis for sample costs: 400 - 53 lb. field boxes per acre. (275 packed boxes)  
 Man labor at \$1.00 and \$1.25 per hour. Light wheel tractor at \$1.30 per hour.

	Sample Costs		My Costs	
	Per Acre	Per Field bx.	Per Acre	Per Field bx.
<b>PRE-HARVEST LABOR AND MATERIAL COSTS:</b>				
Cultivate and furrow: 7 hrs. M & T	\$ 17.85			
Irrigate: 7 times - 24 M hrs.	24.00			
Water: power to pump 3 ac. ft. @ \$5.75	17.25			
Fertilize: 1 hr. M & T	2.55			
Fertilizer: 1 lb. N per tree (Calcium Nit.)	15.00			
Spraying - pest & disease: 3 times - contract	27.00			
Spray materials:	55.00			
Frost protection: labor & machine maintenance	1.50			
Frost protection: machine standby & power	55.00			
Misc. labor: prune, rodent cont., etc.	8.00			
Misc. material:	5.00			
<b>Total Pre-harvest Labor and Material Cost</b>	<b>\$228.15</b>	<b>\$ .57</b>		
<b>HARVESTING COSTS:</b>				
Picking at 22¢ per field box	\$ 88.00			
Hauling at 5¢ per field box	20.00			
<b>Total Harvesting Cost</b>	<b>\$108.00</b>	<b>\$ .27</b>		
<b>CASH OVERHEAD COSTS:</b>				
General expense	\$ 16.81			
County taxes	16.00			
Repairs, except field power & wind mach.	4.00			
Misc., comp. ins., etc.	3.50			
<b>Total Cash Overhead Cost</b>	<b>\$ 40.31</b>	<b>\$ .10</b>		
<b>Total Cash, Labor and Field Power Costs</b>	<b>\$376.46</b>	<b>\$ .94</b>		
<b>DEPRECIATION COSTS:</b>				
Trees: (\$750 cost - 40 yrs. life)	\$ 18.75			
Irrigation facilities (\$330 cost)	13.50			
Frost protect.: (wind machine cost - \$440)	22.00			
Bldgs. & equip. except tractor (\$90 cost)	5.00			
<b>Total Depreciation Cost</b>	<b>\$ 59.25</b>	<b>\$ .15</b>		
<b>INTEREST ON INVESTMENT COSTS:</b>				
Trees: on 1/2 original cost (\$375)	\$ 18.75			
Irrigation facilities - on 1/2 cost (\$165)	8.25			
Frost protect. -(wind machine on 1/2 cost \$220)	11.00			
Bldgs. & equip. except tractor: (1/2 cost \$45)	2.25			
Land: (bare) at \$500	25.00			
<b>Total Interest on Investment</b>	<b>\$ 65.25</b>	<b>\$ .16</b>		
<b>TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION</b>	<b>\$500.96</b>	<b>\$ 1.25</b>		

Karl W. Opitz, Farm Advisor

B. B. Burlingame, Extension Economist  
 November, 1954

## DISCUSSION

Climatic conditions in Tulare County are generally favorable to navel orange production. In fact, the navel orange attains its best eating quality and marketability in this area. On the other hand much of the acreage here is on soils that require skillful management to obtain the best results. It takes a lot of know-how, capital, and labor to raise navel oranges.

A study of cost of production figures shows that in order to make a good living from navel oranges, high per acre production must be obtained. Sooner or later the low producing grove will become a liability no matter how cheap its original price. Most newcomers and many growers fail to realize how expensive it is to grow navel oranges. For this reason we considered it worthwhile to assemble these cost of production figures.

You will find sections on the data sheet that will permit you to compare your costs with our figures. These cost figures are not intended to represent averages for the industry in the county. They are presented as a guide in helping you arrive at your own costs. No allowance has been made for management. Extra pest control or special costs would be additional.

If you have any questions concerning these costs you are invited to contact our office. Suggestions for improving the usefulness of this type of presentation will be welcomed.