

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA 95616

Budget Record Numbers 256-259

1983

SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS

ESTABLISHMENT COSTS FOR STONE FRUIT ORCHARD

(PEACHES, NECTARINES, PLUMS)

Tulare, Fresno & Kings Counties

by

J. LaRue, Tulare Co., F. Yoshikawa, Fresno Co.,
and B. Beede, Kings Co., Farm Advisors

and

K. Klonsky, Farm Management Specialist, U.C. Davis

Costs given in this sample study are for those of a typical well managed orchard and are not intended to reflect an average of all orchards in Tulare, Fresno and Kings Counties.

This study is based upon a 10 acre block out of a 40 acre total fruit orchard. The same machinery, pump and some other costs are shared on the whole orchard.

Practices listed are based on those considered typical production procedures. Sample costs given for labor, materials, equipment and contract services are based on 1983 figures. Interest and depreciation are based upon the cost of new equipment and recent land purchases. Some costs or practices listed in this study may not be applicable to your situation. The study is intended as a guide only.

For explanation of calculations used for the study refer to the attached cost estimate assumptions or call Agriculture Economics Extension, University of California, Davis, California (916) 752-3563.

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COST ESTIMATE ASSUMPTIONS - 1st YEAR

1st year Establishment costs for a Stone Fruit Orchard (peaches, nectarines, plums) Tulare, Fresno and Kings Counties 1983
By J. LaRue, F. Yoshikawa & B. Beede, Farm Advisors - K. Klonsky, Specialist

10 acres of a 40 acre orchard - 108 trees/acre
Furrow irrigation: 10 ac. in. total 50% district water, 50% well water
Land owner basis

1. 1st establishment year is 15 months - October through December
The Budget Generator program only allows for a 12 month crop year. Only months 1-12 are shown in this budget. No budget for months 13-15.
2. Land preparation in October:
Contract land leveling (laser) \$125.00/acre
Contract chiseling \$ 60.00/acre
3. Fumigate soil for nematodes in October:
Fumigation often done at the same time as chiseling.
Materials - soil fumigant 40 gal/acre @ \$7.50/gal = \$300.00/acre
Application - contract \$17.00/acre
4. Disc in October and November:
Offset disc pulled by 65hp diesel tractor - 1 pass in orchard each month
5. Plant in February:
Trees, non-patented variety (1/2 inch) 108 trees/acre @ \$3.05/tree = \$329.40/acre
(Add approximately \$1.75/tree for royalty if patented variety)
Planting, marking and pruning (head back) - contract
108 trees/acre @ \$.75/tree = \$81.00/acre hand done (not machine planting)
Painting: Materials \$5.00/acre, Labor 1 hr/acre @ \$5.25/hr = \$5.25/acre
6. Furrow in March, May, July:
Furrower, 2 shovel pulled by 65hp diesel tractor - 1 pass in orchard each month
March
May
July weed control
7. Fertilize in May:
Materials .125 lbs N /tree x 108 trees/acre @ \$.34/lb = \$4.59/acre
Application - contract \$3.50/acre
8. Irrigation:
Furrow irrigation system includes:
Pipeline \$300/acre x 40 acres \$12,000
Well - 120ft, 10" gauge casing 2,300
\$14,300
Pump: 15hp, 70 ft lift, 450 gal/min = 1.0 ac.in./hr, \$7,900
Irrigation labor - 1 hr/application/acre
9 irrigations - 10 ac.in. total: 5 ac.in. district water
5 ac.in. well water
District water cost: \$14.00/acre 100% rights
First irrigation or two is well water, district water used until unavailable, then well water for balance of season.

7. Weed control in May-September and December:

May-Sept: Labor (hoeing and touch up spraying) 1 hr/ac @ \$5.25/hr = \$5.25/acre
Materials - additional spray = \$7.50/acre

December: Materials pre-emergence herbicide \$12.00/acre
Application - contract \$7.00/acre

8. Disc in May, July, October:

Offset disc pulled by 65hp diesel tractor - 1 pass in orchard each month

May before furrowing

July before furrowing

October before pruning

9. Misc. Labor:

4 hrs/acre @ \$5.25/hr = \$21.00/acre

1/3 hour charged each month for 12 months

10. Pickup: 25 miles/acre/month

