

WHAT WILL IT COST TO PRODUCE

THOMPSON SEEDLESS GRAPES IN KINGS COUNTY

by

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The Thompson Seedless grape ranks second in importance of all grape varieties, in acreage, and yield in Kings County. In 1952, the crop brought over half a million dollars. Nearly all Thompsions are planted in the northern end of the county in the Riverbend area and most of the tonnage is dried for raisins or sold to wineries.

Growers have operated their vineyards efficiently in the past. Costs have been kept down as much as possible because of the low grape price in recent years.

If wineries or dried fruit outlets in the future demand certain sugar content, crop regulation may be necessary by reducing the length of the canes to cut down the number of buds.

Irrigation is one of the cheapest cultural costs, and plenty of water is necessary for good production. 30 - 36" per acre of water are required over the season. Furrow irrigation requires the least labor.

Cultivation is necessary only for weed control. Vineyards heavily infested with Johnson grass may be more economically cleaned with a combination oil spray, than by cultivation.

Paper trays are more economical than wood trays because of cleaning and handling.

Growers with less than 30 acres of Thompsions and no other crop may reduce their costs by hiring their tractor work done.

Most of the higher costs of producing Thompsions such as pruning, picking, hauling etc., are tied in with the going wage rate and cannot be reduced until farm labor costs come down.

(Costs on reverse side)

September 1953

Kings County

WHAT WILL IT COST TO PRODUCE THOMPSON SEEDLESS RAISINS IN KINGS COUNTY

Based on a yield of 2 dry tons per A.
 Man Labor @ \$1.00 per hr.
 (Except as noted otherwise)

20 H.P. Tractor @ \$1.20 per hr.
 Pick-up truck @ \$1.75 per hr.

	Sample Costs		My Costs	
	Per Acre	Per Ton	Per Acre	Per Ton
Pre-harvest Labor and Material Costs:				
Pruning: Contract @ 4¢ per vine	\$21.80			
Brush disposal: man & tractor	2.25			
Tying: contract @ \$7.50/M	4.09			
Fertilize: 3/4 man & 1/2 tractor hr.	1.35			
Fertilizer: 50 lbs. N.	8.00			
Dust - 1 X DDT & sulfur, 3X sulfur: 1/2 hr. man & tr.	1.10			
Dust: 15 lbs. DDT & sulfur / 60 lbs. sulfur *	4.39			
Tillage, irrig. prep & shovel: 8 man & 5 tr. hrs.	14.00			
Irrigate: 5X - 5 man hrs.	5.00			
Water (power): 3 Ac. ft. @ 1.30	3.90			
Misc. labor: 4 man, 1 tractor, 1 pick up hr.	6.95			
Misc. material: twine etc.	3.50			
Total Pre-harvest labor & material	76.33	38.16		
Harvesting Costs:				
Picking: 800 trays @ 6¢	48.00	24.00		
Turn, roll and box	17.00	8.50		
Haul out & to market	10.00	5.00		
Paper trays at 8.50 per 1,000	7.65	3.83		
Miscellaneous harvesting	5.00	2.50		
Total Harvesting costs	87.65	43.83		
Cash Overhead Costs:				
General Expense	8.20			
County Taxes	8.00			
Repairs, except field power	3.00			
Misc.: comp. ins., etc.	3.00			
Total cash overhead	22.20	11.10		
Total Cash, Labor and Field Power Costs	186.18	93.09		
Depreciation Costs:				
Vines, stakes & trellis: (\$400 cost - 30 yrs. life)	13.50			
Irrigation facilities: orig. cost \$50	3.00			
Bldgs. & equip, except tractor: \$40 orig. cost	3.25			
Total Depreciation	19.75	9.87		
Interest on Investment @ 5%:				
Vines, Stakes & Trellis: on 1/2 orig. cost (\$200)	10.00			
Irrigation facilities on 1/2 orig. cost	1.25			
Bldgs. & equip. on 1/2 orig. cost	1.00			
Land at \$500	25.00			
Total Interest on Investment	37.25	18.63		
Total Cost of Production	243.18	121.59		

*Where dusting for red spider is necessary, added labor & material cost would be approximately \$7 per acre.