

# CHERRY TOMATOES Cost Analysis Worksheet



**FRESNO  
COUNTY  
1990**



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**Cherry Tomatoes Grown Under Plastic Tunnels**  
**Cost Analysis Worksheet**  
**1990**

Sample costs to produce Cherry Tomatoes in Fresno County are based on a yield of 3,000 boxes/acre. Field labor is \$5.50 per hour cost to the grower reflecting 7.65% social security, 3.4 unemployment, and 11.3% workmen's compensation. A 30 hp wheel gasoline tractor per hour cost is \$6.00. Tillage equipment is assumed to be owned by grower, and all equipment is already depreciated to a low value. This is considered to be one crop on a 10-acre farm where several vegetable crops are produced. Cherry Tomatoes are usually farmed from February to November.

Sample Costs		My Costs	
Per	Per	Per	Per
Acre	Box	Acre	Box

**Pre-Harvest Costs**

**Land Preparation**

Plow & Disc (3 hrs. tractor & labor)      \$ 34.50  
 Laser Leveling      \$ 75.00

Bed Fumigation (custom)      \$ 450.00

**Fertilization**

Pre-plant      \$ 56.00  
 1 hr. tractor labor      \$ 11.50  
 Sidedressed N. fertilizer      \$ 150.00  
 (1hr. tractor labor)      \$ 11.50

Plants (4,350 at 75/1000)      \$ 326.70

Planting machine (rental)      \$ 50.00  
 (1 hr. tractor & labor)      \$ 11.50

**Tunnels**

Plastic      \$ 280.00  
 Bedding & plastic laying (custom)      \$ 75.00  
 Hoop installation (2 hrs.)      \$ 11.00  
 Closing tunnels (3 hrs.)      \$ 16.50  
 Venting (20 hrs.)      \$ 110.00

Staking (18 hrs. labor)      \$ 99.00

Tying (4x12 hrs. labor)      \$ 264.00

Pest Control (3 hr. tractor & labor)      \$ 225.00

Irrigation (PG&E for 7 mnths. @ \$50/mnth)      \$ 350.00

Plant Removal (2 hrs. tractor labor)      \$ 23.00

Plastic Removal (12 hrs. labor)      \$ 66.00

Stake Removal (14 hrs. labor)      \$ 77.00

Miscellaneous Expenses      \$ 200.00

Business expenses (6% of pre-harvest costs)      \$ 169.00

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**TOTAL PRE-HARVEST COSTS                      \$3,142.20      \$1.05**

	<u>Sample Costs</u>		<u>My Costs</u>	
	Per Acre	Per Box	Per Acre	Per Box
<b><u>Harvest Cost</u></b>				
Cartons (3000)	\$2,250.00	\$ .75		
Labor (harvest)	\$4,999.00	\$1.67		
Packing & grading	\$ 750.00	\$ .25		
Transportation	\$ 250.00	\$ .08		
<b>TOTAL HARVEST COSTS</b>	<b>\$8,249.00</b>	<b>\$2.25</b>		
<b>TOTAL CASH COST</b>	<b>\$11,391.20</b>	<b>\$3.80</b>		
<b>Depreciation</b>				
Tractor & Equipment 3500, 10 yrs.	\$ 100.00			
Wire hoops - 5 yrs.	\$ 35.00			
Irrigation	\$ 40.00			
	\$ 25.00			
<b>TOTAL DEPRECIATION</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>	<b>\$ .03</b>		
<b>Interest or Investment</b>				
Tractor & Equipment	\$ 21.00			
Wire hoops	\$ 63.00			
<b>TOTAL INTEREST OR INVESTMENT</b>	<b>\$ 84.00</b>	<b>\$ .02</b>		
<b>TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION</b>	<b>\$11,575.20</b>	<b>\$3.85</b>		

**Cost Of Production Per Box At Varying Yields/Acre**

Total Cost of Production	2000	2500	3000	3500	4000	4500
	5.79	4.63	3.85	3.31	2.89	2.57
Total Pre-harvest Costs	1.57	1.26	1.05	.90	.79	.70

These costs were arrived at through a careful review of the activities a successful grower takes to produce Cherry Tomatoes using plastic tunnels and bed fumigation. There are other methods of controlling weeds and nematodes, which can be effective as well. Consult your pest control advisor or your local farm advisor for more information.

The distance between beds and plants upon which this cost study is based are not universal, but rather reflect growers likes and farm equipment availability to perform fumigation and cultivation. The minimum distance between beds when using plastic tunnels or bed fumigation is 5 feet.

Likewise, all activities listed herein can only be judged as an approximation, since no two growers are alike in the way they farm. However, your costs should be fairly close to these should the same circumstances apply. Take into account when computing your expenses, that all labor has been charged against the cost of production, whether it was paid or not or came from family members. If you and your family provide the labor, then your cash expenses will be for inputs such as fertilizers, plastics, fuel, etc., and will therefore, reflect a much reduced level of expenditure on a per acre basis.

However, take into account that to maximize production, weeds, diseases and other variables that may reduce yields, need to be controlled. This grower's cost of production reflects the activities he has followed for years to produce high consistent yield on a regular basis.

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