



Sample Costs
to Produce
Wine Grapes
in the Lower
Sacramento Valley
1975

Division of Agricultural Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

LEAFLET
2260

Prepared By:

Thomas M. Aldrich, Farm Advisor, Colusa County
Jack P. Orr, Farm Advisor, Sacramento County
David H. Chaney, Farm Advisor, Sutter-Yuba Counties
David M. Holmberg, Farm Advisor, Yolo County
L. A. Horel, Research Associate, Davis
A. D. Reed, Extension Economist, Davis

WINE GRAPE CULTURAL BRIEFS

Soil Requirements: Grapes grow fairly well in many different soils. The deeper and more fertile soils usually produce the heaviest crops but some varieties reach higher quality on soils of limited depth. Avoid very heavy clays, very shallow soils, poorly drained soils, and soils with relatively high concentrations of alkali salts, boron, and other toxic materials.

Planting Dates: Vines can be set anytime during the dormant season. Set before growth starts in the spring.

Harvest Dates: September to November.

Varieties: Check with wineries to find out what varieties they need and would be willing to purchase. Use only certified rootstock.

Planting Distance: Customary plantings are 10 x 10 feet or 8 x 12 feet with 20 foot avenues on each side and at 1/4 mile intervals.

Fertilizer: About 50 pounds of nitrogen per acre are usually sufficient. Excess fertilizer may cause the plants to produce excessive vegetative growth rather than fruit.

Irrigation: Grapes will require 2-3 feet of irrigation water per year. Apply up to 6 inches per irrigation depending on the depth and water holding capacity of the soil.

Weed Control: Use cultivation and herbicides as necessary to control weeds.

Insect Control: Control measures may be necessary for Grape leaf hopper and the Pacific mite. If nematodes are a problem in your soil, consider fumigation before planting and use resistant rootstocks.

Diseases: Possible disease problems include Oak root fungus, leaf roll, corky bark, Phylloxera, yellow Mosaic and yellow vein. Obtain accurate diagnosis and use recommended treatments. Check with your farm advisor as to whether you need Phylloxera resistant rootstocks.

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE WINE GRAPES
Lower Sacramento Valley - 1974

Based on an 80 acre vineyard. Yield: 8 tons/acre. Labor rates including fringe benefits \$3.50 and \$2.60 per hour.

Operation	Hours per acre	Cash and labor cost per acre				
		Labor	Fuel & repairs	Kind and quantity	Cost	Total
dollars						
<u>Cultural Costs</u>						
Prune	22.0	57.20				57.20
Brush disposal				Contract	5.00	5.00
Fertilizer				N 50# applied	15.00	15.00
Pest & disease control	1.5	5.25	2.70	Material	18.00	25.95
Tillage	3.0	10.50	5.50			16.00
Herbicide				Applied	15.00	15.00
Irrigate	9.0	23.40	2.50	Water 3 ac.ft. @ \$4	12.00	37.90
Miscellaneous		5.75	5.00		10.00	20.75
Interest on operating capital					8.00	8.00
Crop loan interest					1.50	1.50
TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS		102.10	15.70		84.50	202.30
<u>Harvest Costs</u>						
Pick and haul				Contract 8 tons @ \$32	256.00	
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS						256.00
<u>Cash Overhead</u>						
Misc., office, etc.					25.95	
Taxes					29.60	
Rent				25% of 8 tons @ \$210	420.00	
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD					475.55	475.55
TOTAL CASH COST		102.10	15.70		816.05	933.85
Management 5% of 8 tons @ \$210 (\$1,680)						84.00
<u>Investment</u>						
<u>Investment</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Annual Cost</u>				
		<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Interest 8%</u>			
Vineyard	\$2,660	\$ 88.65	\$106.40			
Buildings & Equipment	300	30.00	12.00			
Total	2,960	118.75	118.40			237.15
TOTAL COST PER ACRE						1,255.00
Cost per ton @ 8 ton yield						156.87

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