

AN ANALYSIS OF WALNUT  
PRODUCTION COSTS IN CALIFORNIA

Compiled by  
A. D. Reed  
Extension Economist

From material prepared  
by the Farm Advisors in major  
producing counties.

University of California  
Agricultural Extension Service  
Davis, California

April 1965

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Introduction . . . . .	1
WALNUT ACREAGE IN CALIFORNIA IN 1963 AND AVERAGE YIELDS OF MAJOR PRODUCING COUNTIES . . . . .	2
CALIFORNIA ACREAGE, YIELD, PRODUCTION, AND SEASON AVERAGE PRICE OF WALNUTS, 1960-64 . . . . .	4
SUMMARY OF WALNUT COST STUDIES IN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1960 . . . . .	5
 COSTS BY COUNTIES	
Santa Barbara, 1960 . . . . .	6
Merced, 1961 . . . . .	7
Alameda, 1962 . . . . .	8
Tulare, 1962 . . . . .	9
Butte, 1963 . . . . .	10
San Joaquin, 1963 . . . . .	11
Shasta, 1963 . . . . .	12
Stanislaus, 1963 . . . . .	13
Tehama, 1963 . . . . .	14
Yolo, 1963 . . . . .	15
Yuba, 1963 . . . . .	16
Contra Costa, 1964 . . . . .	17
Glenn, 1964 . . . . .	18
Lake - irrigated, 1964 . . . . .	19
nonirrigated, 1964 . . . . .	20
Butte-Sutter, 1965 . . . . .	21
INVESTMENT FOR WALNUT PRODUCTION - SUTTER-BUTTE COUNTIES, 1965 . . . .	22

## AN ANALYSIS OF WALNUT PRODUCTION COSTS IN CALIFORNIA

There are over 160,000 acres of walnuts in California producing nearly \$40,000,000 of income each year. The bearing acreage has increased from 113,000 acres in 1954 to 126,000 acres in 1964. All but eleven of the 57 counties in California report some walnut acreage. However, ten counties account for nearly 75 percent of the bearing acreage. Acreage is found in quantity in all areas of the state except the northern and mountain counties. Yields have averaged .6 ton per acre over the 1960-64 period but varied from .50 to .64 tons.

This report summarizes the cost of production studies on walnuts which have been made in California since 1960. Farm advisors in 14 counties have prepared sample costs of production during this period. The costs are not presented as being averages for the counties but represent commercial orchards with good management. Estimated yields are above the county averages. Most of the studies use a wage rate which includes social security, compensation insurance, and other miscellaneous labor costs. Fuel and repairs are based on standard rates of performance for the equipment used. Material costs are for material delivered to the orchard. Investment is based on present replacement costs except land which is valued at market price for agricultural purposes. Depreciation is figured at acceptable lengths of life and interest is charged at six percent.

WALNUT ACREAGE IN CALIFORNIA IN 1963 AND  
AVERAGE YIELDS OF MAJOR PRODUCING COUNTIES

County	Bearing	Nonbearing acres	Total	Average yield 1959-63, major producing counties
				dry tons
Humboldt	66	--	66	
Mendocino	528	226	754	
Shasta	142	430	572	
Alameda	1,573	227	1,800	
Contra Costa	10,440	1,018	11,458	.9 <sup>a/</sup>
Lake	8,213	1,916	10,129	.4
Marin	74	5	79	
Monterey	1,103	40	1,143	
Napa	1,966	387	2,353	
San Benito	3,208	249	3,457	1.1
San Luis Obispo	1,336	234	1,570	
San Mateo	152	14	166	
Santa Clara	7,453	631	8,084	.7
Santa Cruz	48	23	71	
Sonoma	1,519	187	1,706	
Butte	4,235	2,637	6,872	.5
Colusa	1,616	1,197	2,813	
Glenn	1,111	816	1,927	
Sacramento	1,010	99	1,109	
Solano	1,065	327	1,392	
Sutter	7,292	2,646	9,938	.6
Tehama	3,089	1,686	4,775	
Yolo	1,598	1,375	2,973	
Yuba	1,226	972	2,198	
Fresno	2,160	1,112	3,272	
Kern	8	4	12	
Kings	1,301	1,370	2,671	
Madera	243	614	857	
Merced	4,896	2,086	6,982	.5
San Joaquin	17,178	3,861	21,039	.7
Stanislaus	13,702	5,294	18,996	.5
Tulare	9,631	6,090	15,721	.8
Amador	225	180	405	
Calaveras	392	150	542	
El Dorado	210	129	339	
Mariposa	--	4	4	

a/ 1960-64.

Walnut Acreage in California in 1963 and Average Yields of Major Producing Counties, Continued.

County	Bearing	Nonbearing	Total	Average yield
				1959-63, major producing counties
	acres			dry tons
Nevada	8	1	9	
Placer	51	52	103	
Tuolumne	52	2	54	
Los Angeles	1,011	104	1,115	
Orange	447	10	457	
Riverside	3,430	97	3,527	.3
San Bernardino	697	12	709	
San Diego	650	28	678	
Santa Barbara	1,786	125	1,911	
Ventura	6,319	194	6,513	.4
STATE	124,460	38,861	163,321	.6

California Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. California Fruit and Nut Acreage, Bearing and Nonbearing Acreage, Principal Crops by Counties, Acreage of Principal Crops by Varieties and Age Groups, as of 1963. Sacramento, 1964.

County Agricultural Commissioners' Report.

CALIFORNIA ACREAGE, YIELD, PRODUCTION, AND SEASON AVERAGE PRICE  
OF WALNUTS, 1940-64

Year	Bearing	Nonbearing	Yield		Pro- duction	Season average price
			acres	tons		
1940	126,224	22,744	.37	740	46,400	233
1941	124,303	22,364	.51	1,020	63,000	253
1942	124,458	22,093	.46	920	57,600	308
1943	125,768	21,162	.47	940	58,500	483
1944	125,679	21,561	.52	1,040	65,000	446
1945	126,941	22,464	.50	1,000	64,000	514
1946	126,039	25,356	.50	1,000	63,000	570
1947	126,299	27,509	.47	940	59,000	388
1948	121,451	29,018	.51	1,020	62,000	442
1949	115,772	29,575	.69	1,380	80,200	363
1950	115,527	30,051	.50	1,000	58,000	392
1951	114,212	28,687	.60	1,200	68,300	440
1952	114,228	27,421	.66	1,320	75,600	400
1953	114,972	24,958	.48	960	54,800	415
1954	113,263	22,823	.59	1,180	67,000	360
1955	114,215	24,235	.63	1,260	72,000	555
1956	113,922	27,523	.61	1,220	69,000	442
1957	118,746	30,911	.52	1,032	61,300	427
1958	120,721	32,804	.68	1,362	82,200	377
1959	121,796	36,954	.48	940	58,500	483
1960	123,525	36,512	.57	1,137	70,300	535
1961	122,775	41,373	.50	1,000	61,200	473
1962	123,335	39,215	.62	1,240	77,000	469
1963	124,460	38,861	.64	1,280	74,000	460
1964	126,000		.63	1,260	79,380	455

U. S. Department of Agriculture and California Crop and Livestock Reporting Service.

California Agricultural Extension Service, University of California, Berkeley.

SUMMARY OF WALNUT COST STUDIES IN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1960

County	Year of study	Yield lbs.	Cost per acre								Cost per lb.	Total investment per acre	
			Cultural cash & labor	Harvest	Misc. overhead	Taxes	Management	Depreciation	Interest	Total			
			dollars										cents
Santa Barbara	1960	2,000	126.00	70.00	12.00	15.00			22.00	100.00	345.00	17.2	2,300
Merced	1961	2,000	141.60	95.00	7.69	12.19			44.10	103.60	404.18	20.2	2,453
Alameda	1962	2,000	141.45	116.87	12.32	70.00			78.19	148.00	566.83	28.3	3,433
Tulare	1962	2,000	104.73	95.00	6.60	28.00			48.71	95.31	378.35	18.9	2,277
Butte	1963	2,000	119.85	67.20	9.35	42.63 <sup>a/</sup>			75.44	128.69	468.16	23.4	3,050
San Joaquin	1963	2,000	103.56	23.00	6.35	26.00			104.05	129.51	415.47	20.8	3,317
Shasta	1963	2,000	78.30	101.85	9.70	43.35 <sup>a/</sup>	22.00		92.75	125.85	475.10	23.8	3,195
Stanislaus	1963	1,573	88.48	65.67	9.04	27.75			63.72	150.62	405.28	25.8	3,520
Tehama	1963	2,000	144.85	95.50	11.55	43.55 <sup>a/</sup>	22.00		88.00	122.10	527.55	26.4	3,070
Yolo	1963	2,000	112.76	58.89	3.00	26.00			113.05	125.95	439.65	22.0	3,197
Yuba	1963	2,000	86.89	67.00	7.70	45.30 <sup>a/</sup>	22.80		94.80	125.55	450.04	22.4	3,185
Contra Costa	1964	2,000	132.34	27.05	7.61	25.00			84.05	125.95	425.00	21.2	2,960
Glenn	1964	2,000	103.29	59.57	8.14	42.08 <sup>a/</sup>			109.98	112.17	457.23	22.8	2,938
Lake Irrigated	1964	1,600	79.00	82.60	8.65	35.00	16.00		94.50	123.25	439.00	27.4	3,107
Nonirrig.	1964	800	55.05	57.60	6.25	28.00	8.00		46.60	68.70	270.20	33.8	1,690

<sup>a/</sup> Includes insurance.