

1956

# PRUNE

---

---

ORCHARD COSTS  
FROM  
PLANTING TO PICKING

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE  
TEHAMA COUNTY

## ESTABLISHING A PRUNE ORCHARD IN TEHAMA COUNTY - 1956

This cost study was designed to give an idea of expected costs per acre involved in establishing a prune orchard. The figures represent typical costs under assumed conditions. These conditions are as follows: 40 acres of level land, valued at \$500.00 per acre, 38 acres of which are planted to trees on 25 foot centers with 70 trees per acre.

Irrigation water is supplied by one of the local water districts at a cost of \$5.00 an acre per year.

A wheel tractor, 100 gallon spray rig, and all other needed tilling and digging implements were computed at retail value the first year.

The costs of a fertilizer spreader and a 400 gallon air carrier sprayer were added in the third year.

Major variations from these per acre costs will occur with variation of size of planting, use of machinery already on hand, and incidence of disease and insect pest infestation.

The total cost per acre will remain about constant from the fourth year until self-sustaining, expected between the fifth and seventh year, depending on vigor, cultural practices and other factors.

SAMPLE COSTS TO ESTABLISH PRUNE ORCHARD

First Year

Operation	Dates	Hours Per Acre	CASH AND LABOR COST			YOUR COST		Cost For Acre
			Labor	Equipment	Materials	Total	Per Acre	
Disc	Nov.	.5	.50	.50			1.00	
Mark & stake	January	2.0	2.00		Stakes 70 @ 5¢	3.50	5.50	
Dig holes	Jan.-Feb.	1.0	1.00	.60			1.60	
Plant & prune	Jan.-Feb.	3.0	3.00		Trees 70 @ 75¢	52.00	55.00	
Watering	Jan.-Feb.	3.0	3.00	2.50			5.50	
Spray twice	March-May	1.5	1.50	1.50	Malathion & D.D.T.	.50	3.50	
Disc twice	April	1.0	1.00	1.00			2.00	
Fertilize	April	1.5	1.50		Nitrogen 20# @ 15¢	3.00	4.50	
Furrow 4 times	March-Aug.	.8	.80	.80			1.60	
Irrigate 8 times	March-Sept.	4.0	4.00	.50	Water	5.00	9.50	
Hoe	May	5.0	5.00				5.00	
Disc furrows 3 times	May-Aug.	.7	.75	.75			1.50	
Spray	June-Sept.	.7	.75	.75	Miticide	.25	1.75	
Disc	October	.5	.50	.50			1.00	
Plant cover crop	October	.2	.20	.15	Seed 30# @ 12½¢	3.75	4.10	
Harrow	October	.3	.30	.20			.50	
Taxes						8.00	8.00	
Misc.			2.20	.25		1.05	3.45	
<b>Total</b>			<b>28.00</b>	<b>10.00</b>		<b>77.00</b>	<b>115.00</b>	
Investment	Per Acre		Interest & Depreciation					
Land	\$500.			\$ 25.				
Bldgs.	130.			6.				
Irrigation	50.			3.				
Equipment	120.			16.				
<b>Total</b>	<b>800</b>						<b>50.00</b>	

Total Cost Per Acre 165.00

SAMPLE COSTS TO ESTABLISH PRUNE ORCHARD  
Second Year

Operation	Dates	Hours Per Acre	CASH AND LABOR COST			YOUR COST		Total For _____ Acre
			Labor	Equipment	Materials	Total	PerAcre	
Spray	Oct.-Nov.	1.0	1.00	1.00	Bordeaux 5-5-50 .25	2.25		
Prune & train	Nov.-Dec.	3.0	3.00			3.00		
Replant 5%	January	.4	.40	.20	4 trees @ 75¢ 3.00	3.60		
Fertilize	Dec.-Feb.	1.5	1.50		Nitrogen 20# @ 15¢ 3.00	4.50		
Straighten & stake 10%	Jan.-March	.5	.50		Stakes 7 @ 40¢ 2.80	3.30		
Hoe twice	Feb.-June	10.0	10.00			10.00		
Spray twice	March-May	1.5	1.50	1.50	Malathion & D.D.T. .50	3.50		
Disc covercrop twice	April	1.0	1.00	1.00		2.00		
Furrow 3 times	April-June-Aug.	.6	.60	.60		1.20		
Irrigate 7 times	April-Sept.	3.5	3.50	.50	Water 5.00	9.00		
Disc furrows twice	June-Aug.	.5	.50	.50		1.00		
Spray	June-Sept.	.7	.75	.75	Miticide .25	1.75		
Disc	October	.5	.50	.50		1.00		
Plant cover crop	October	.2	.20	.15	Seed 30# @ 12½¢ 3.75	4.10		
Harrow	October	.3	.30	.20		.50		
Taxes						8.00	8.00	
Misc.			1.75	.10		1.45	3.30	
Total			26.00	8.00		28.00	62.00	
Investment		Per Acre	Interest & Depreciation					
	Land	\$ 500.		\$ 25.				
	Bldgs.	130.		6.				
	Irrigation	50.		3.				
	Equipment	120.		16.				
	Trees	165.		8.				
Total		<u>965.</u>					58.00	

Total Per Acre

120.00

SAMPLE COSTS TO ESTABLISH PRUNE ORCHARD  
Third Year

Operation	Dates	Hours Per Acre	CASH AND LABOR COST			YOUR COST		Cost For ——— Acre
			Labor	Equipment	Materials	Total	PerAcre	
Spray	Oct.-Nov.	.7	.75	1.80	5-5-50 Bordeaux	1.00	3.55	
Prune & train	Nov.-Dec.	10.0	10.00				10.00	
Remove brush	Nov.-Dec.	.5	.50	.50			1.00	
Replant (5%)	Jan.-Feb.	.4	.40	.20	Trees 4 @ 75¢	3.00	3.60	
Fertilize	Jan.-Feb.	.3	.25	.25	Nitrogen 35# @ 15¢	5.25	5.75	
Straighten & stake								
10%	Jan.-March	2.0	2.00		Stakes 7 @ 40¢	2.80	4.80	
Spray twice	March - May	1.5	1.50	3.60	Malathion & D.D.T.	2.00	7.10	
Disc cover crop								
twice	April	1.0	1.00	1.00			2.00	
Furrow twice	April-June	.7	.75	.75			1.50	
Irrigate 5 times	May-Sept.	5.0	5.00	.50	Water	5.00	10.50	
Hoe	June	5.0	5.00				5.00	
Disc furrows twice	June-Aug.	1.0	1.00	1.00			2.00	
Spray	June-Aug.	.7	.70	1.80	Miticide	1.00	3.50	
Disc	October	.5	.50	.50			1.00	
Plant cover crop		.2	.20	.15	Seed 30 lbs. @ 15¢	3.75	4.10	
Harrow		.3	.30	.20			.50	
Taxes						8.00	8.00	
Misc.			1.15	.20		.20	1.55	
Total			31.00	12.00		32.00	75.00	
Investment		Per Acre	Interest & Depreciation					
Land		\$ 500.		\$ 25.				
Bldgs.		130.		6.				
Irrigation		50.		3.				
Equipment		220.		27.				
Trees		285.		14.				
Total		<u>1,185.</u>						
							75.00	
Total Cost Per Acre							150.00	

SAMPLE COSTS TO ESTABLISH PRUNE ORCHARD  
Fourth Year

Operation	Dates	Hours Per Acre	CASH AND LABOR COST			YOUR COST		Cost For _____ Acr's
			Labor	Equipment	Materials	Total	Per Acre	
Spray	Oct.-Nov.	.7	.75	1.80	5-5-50 Bordeaux	4.20	6.75	
Prune & train	Nov.-Dec.	15.0	15.00				15.00	
Remove brush	Nov.-Dec.	1.0	1.00	1.00			2.00	
Replant (5%)	January	.4	.40	.20	Trees 4 @ 75¢	3.00	3.60	
Fertilize	Dec.-Jan.	.3	.25	.25	Nitrogen 35 lbs. @ 15¢	5.25	5.75	
Straighten & stake 5%	Jan.-March	1.0	1.00		Stakes 4 @ 40¢	1.60	2.60	
Spray twice	March-May	1.5	1.50	1.80	Malathion & D.D.T.	4.00	7.30	
Disc cover crop	April	1.0	1.00	1.00			2.00	
Furrow 2 times	May-July	1.0	1.00	1.00			2.00	
Irrigate 5 times	May-Aug.	5.0	5.00	.50	Water	5.00	10.50	
Hoe	June	5.0	5.00				5.00	
Disc furrows	July	.5	.50	.50			1.00	
Spray	July-Aug.	.7	.70	1.80	Miticide	2.00	4.50	
Disc	October	.5	.50	.50			1.00	
Plant cover crop	October	.2	.20	.15	Seed 30 lbs @ 12.5¢	3.75	4.10	
Harrow	October	.3	.30	.20			.50	
Taxes						8.00	8.00	
Misc.			.95	.20		.20	3.20	
Total			35.00	12.00		35.00	82.00	
Investment		Per Acre	Interest & Depreciation					
Land		\$500.	\$25.					
Bldgs.		30.	6.					
Irrigation		50.	3.					
Equipment		220.	27.					
Trees		435.	22.					
		1,235.					83.00	

Total Cost Per Acre      165.00