

# LEMONS

SAMPLE COSTS OF PRODUCTION —  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

1961

The total costs of production of lemons in Santa Barbara County were \$1009 per acre or \$1.55 per field box with a 650 box yield. This is based on a study of eleven cooperating growers' records. The assistance of George S. B. Ferguson of the California Citrus League is greatly appreciated.

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SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE LEMONS  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY 1961

Based on: 20 acres, owner operated, 15 years of age, non-tillage, portable sprinklers, frost protection by wind machines; yield of 650 field boxes per acre.

<u>CULTURAL OPERATIONS</u>	<u>Typical Costs</u>	
	<u>per acre</u>	<u>per fld. bx.</u>
Irrigation - 5 x with 3 ac-in/irrigation - labor.....	\$ 30	
Water - 15 ac-in for season.....	42	
Fertilization - 150 lbs. Nitrogen per acre applied.....	23	
Pest Control - 2 oil sprays, contract.....	35	
Disease Control - 1 Bordeaux spray, contract.....	9	
Gopher Control - labor, poison, and traps.....	7	
Weed Control - Monuron and oil for spotting.....	12	
Labor.....	14	
Frost Protection - stand-by \$15 - elec. \$2 - labor \$2.....	19	
Pruning and Brush Disposal - toppler & brush cutter, contract	39	
Miscellaneous Labor and Materials.....	24	
TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS	<u>\$254</u>	<u>.39</u>
 <u>CASH OVERHEAD</u>		
Taxes - property.....	\$ 62	
Insurance - liability, fire, compensation.....	8	
Maintenance and Repairs.....	26	
General Expenses - phone, accountant, office, etc.....	25	
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD COSTS	<u>\$121</u>	<u>.19</u>
<u>TOTAL ON-TREE CASH COSTS</u>	<u>\$375</u>	<u>.58</u>
 <u>HARVESTING</u>		
Picking - @.40/field box.....	\$260	
Hauling - @.06/field box.....	39	
TOTAL HARVESTING COSTS	<u>\$299</u>	<u>.46</u>
<u>TOTAL ALL-CASH COSTS</u>	<u>\$674</u>	<u>\$1.04</u>
 <u>INVESTMENT OVERHEAD</u>		
Depreciation - see schedule below.....	\$ 95	
Interest on Investment - @ 6%.....	240	
TOTAL INVESTMENT COSTS	<u>\$335</u>	<u>.52</u>
<u>TOTAL ALL COSTS</u>	<u>\$1009</u>	<u>\$1.55</u>

<u>Investment Schedule Per Acre</u>	<u>Investment</u>	<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Interest</u>
- appraised values			
Land, with water available	\$3000	-	\$180
Trees - 25 years life	1200	\$48	36
Irrigation system - hose & sprinklers	250	16	8
Wind machine - electric	300	20	9
Equipment - sprayer	150	9	4
Farm buildings	100	2	3
TOTAL	<u>\$5000</u>	<u>\$95</u>	<u>\$240</u>

## SANTA BARBARA COUNTY LEMON INDUSTRY SITUATION

Lemons continue to be the second most important agricultural commodity produced in Santa Barbara County. About 15% of the California lemon crop is produced in the south coast area of the County.

In 1961 the acreage declined 750 acres from 1960, due to urban pressure on the land, particularly in the Goleta Valley. In addition, many lemon orchards were being replanted to avocados because of a higher income outlook.

Present acreage reported by the Agricultural Commissioners Crop Report was 7650. The production totaled 86,000 tons, consisting of 3,260,000 packed cartons and 24,000 tons of juice fruit. F.O.B. value was set at \$8,430,000; a prime source of new wealth for the area.

The plantings are made of older groves with declining yields and young groves of nucellar varieties. Yields per acre vary from 300 to 1200 field boxes per acre. Most costs, except harvesting, must be paid by the grower regardless of yield. Thus he must strive for increased yields of better quality fresh fruit.

Incomes in 1961 were better than the previous four years, but much below the pre-1957 levels. Gross returns ranged from \$1.35 to \$1.80 per 50 pound field box. The average was about \$1.55; at this level the break-even yield would be 650 boxes per acre - the average of this study.

August '62

300 ccs - ml

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