

Apricot Production Costs

in

Western Merced County

This cost study was designed to give an idea of the costs involved in a well managed apricot orchard operation in Western Merced County. These costs of apricot production should not be thought of as being average for the county. These costs represent those that a good grower will incur in producing a crop of 10 tons per acre.

This yield of 10 tons per acre is much more than the county average, but it is well within reach of most of our good commercial orchards.

Your costs will likely not be the same as these. You will find this study most useful if you evaluate your costs by entering them opposite the listed costs.

Lonnie C. Hendricks, Jr., Farm Advisor

E. A. Yeary, Farm Advisor



Fall 1968

SAMPLE COST OF APRICOT PRODUCTION IN
WESTERN MERCED COUNTY - Fall, 1968

Lonnie C. Hendricks, Jr., Farm Advisor
Fruit and Nut Crops

Edward Yeary, Farm Advisor
Farm Management

Basis of Estimated Costs:

Furrow Irrigated Blenhelms - 40 acres - 24'x24' spacing - 75 trees per acre
Yield 10 Tons Per Acre. All Labor \$2.00 per hour.
Diesel Track-Type Tractor 40 H.P.(CD40) - Cash Cost \$1.50, Dep. \$.80, Int. \$.30
Diesel Wheel Tractor (WD40) Cash Cost \$1.20, Depreciation \$.70, Interest \$.28

PRE-HARVEST CASH COSTS:	Per Acre	Per Ton
Pruning: \$1.10 per tree @ 75 trees/acre	\$ 82.50	
Brush Disposal: 2 man and 2 tractor(WD40) hrs.	6.40	
Fertilizer: 75 lbs. N @ 13¢ applied	9.75	
Spray application: contract - 2¢ per gallon		
Three sprays @ 450 gallons/acre	27.00	
Spray material	46.00	
Disking 6 times 2 ways: 6 man hours	12.00	
6 Tractor (CD40) hrs.	9.00	
Furrowing for Irrigation 4 Times - 2 man hours	4.00	
2 Tractor (WD40) hrs.	2.40	
Irrigate 6 times - 12 man hours	24.00	
Well Water: 4 acre feet @ \$5.00 pump cost	20.00	
Thinning @ \$.70 per tree	52.50	
Misc. Labor: 4 man hrs. including tractor work	8.00	
Misc. Tractor Work: 1 hr. WD40	1.20	
1 hr. CD40	1.50	
Misc. Material	15.00	
Repairs except tractor	15.00	
County Taxes @ \$7.04/\$100	26.10	
Office, Pickup, Interest on Operating Capital (6% of Cash Costs)	21.74	
TOTAL PRE-HARVEST CASH COSTS	\$384.09	\$38.41
HARVEST COSTS:		
Picking: 10 tons @ \$22.50	225.00	22.50
Hauling: 10 tons @ \$2.50	25.00	2.50
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS	\$250.00	\$25.00
TOTAL CASH COSTS	\$634.09	\$63.41
DEPRECIATION:		
Trees: Cost \$902.00, 30-yr. life	\$ 30.07	
Irrigation System: \$180 Cost, 20 yrs.	9.00	
Bldgs. & Equip. exc. tractors \$100.00 cost, 15-yr. life	6.67	
Tractors: CD40 @ \$.80 - 7 hrs.	5.60	
WD40 @ \$.70 - 5 hrs.	3.50	
TOTAL DEPRECIATION	\$ 54.84	\$ 5.48
INTEREST ON INVESTMENT @ 7%:		
Trees: 1/2 cost of \$902.00	31.57	
Irrigation System: 1/2 cost of \$180.00	6.30	
Bldgs. & Equip. except tractors 1/2 of \$100 cost	3.50	
Tractors: CD40 @ \$.30	2.10	
WD40 @ \$.28	1.40	
Land @ \$800	56.00	
TOTAL INTEREST	\$100.87	\$10.09
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION	\$789.80	\$78.98