VINEYARD ESTABLISHMENT COSTS
IN THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

THOMPSON SEEDLESS
FOR TABLE USE

1964

Cost Analysis Worksheet
Showing Sample Costs

University of California • Agricultural Extension Service

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Yield – tons (fresh)

PREHARVEST CASH AND LABOR COST
Land prep. – chisel, disc twice, float, etc. (contract)
Survey & mark – 5 M-hrs.
Planting – @ 3.5¢, including trimming
Rootings – 413 (+ 10 2d yrs.) @ 7.5¢
Set & distribute stakes & end posts – @ 5¢ & 27¢
Stakes – 413, 6 ft. @ 27¢ (treated)
End posts – 11 @ $1.25 (treated)
String one wire & staple (2d yrs., 1; 3d yrs., 3)
Wire – (2d yr., 100 lbs., 3d yr., 300 lbs.) @ $8.50
Attaching crossarms & braces = 32 M-hrs.
Crossarms – 3 ft. @ 6¢, braces @ 1.8¢ + staples, nails, & wire
Training & suckering (M-hrs. 2d yr., 20; 3d, 5; 4th, 2)
Prune & tie (M-hrs. 2d yr., 2.5; 3d, 10; 4th, 28)
Rabbit control
1st Year 2d Year 3d Year 4th Year
5.0 6.0

$ 20.00 $ 6.50 $ 14.46 $ 30.98 $ 23.62 $ 111.51 $ 13.75 $ 3.42 $ 8.50 $ 41.60 $ 26.00 $ 3.25 $ 7.50 $ 57.20

Girdling & thinning – 44 M-hrs.
Gibberellic spray – 1 gal/acre @ $17.50 + $4/acre application
Irrigation labor – 8 M-hrs.
Water – 2½ to 3½ a.-ft., power &/or irrig. dist. tax
Tillage, irrig. prep. & hoe – 6 M-hrs. + 3 TR-hrs.
Fertilizer application (contract)
Fertilizer – 25 lbs. N (2d yr.), 40 lbs. P, (3d & 4th yrs.) @ 9.5¢
Pest & disease control – 6X, 2 M-hrs. + 2 TR-hrs.
Pest & disease control material
Misc. labor & material, including twine, & ½ TR-hr.
County taxes
Office, car, interest on operating capital, etc. (5% cash & labor costs)
Repairs, except tractor
$ 146.52 $ 277.07 $ 235.77 $ 229.62

Total Preharvest Cash and Labor Cost

HARVESTING COST
Pick & haul (@ $10/ton 3d yr.; $15/ton, 4th yr.)
Total Cash and Labor Cost
$ 146.52 $ 277.07 $ 285.77 $ 319.62

DEPRECIATION COST
Irrigation facilities ($250 cost)
Buildings & equipment, except tractor ($100 cost)
Tractor @ 55¢/hr. (1st & 2d yrs., 3.5; 3d & 4th, 5.5)
$ 12.50 $ 7.50 $ 7.50 $ 1.93 $ 21.93 $ 23.03 $ 23.03

Total Depreciation Cost

Total Cash & Depreciation Cost
$ 168.45 $ 299.00 $ 308.80 $ 342.65

INTEREST ON INVESTMENT @ 6%
Irrigation facilities – on ½ cost ($125)
Buildings & equipment, except tractor – on ½ cost ($50)
Tractor @ 25¢/hr. (1st & 2d yrs., 3.5; 3d & 4th, 5.5)
Land without improvements @ $800
Interest on accumulated costs
$ 5.93 $ 7.30 $ 9.59 $ 10.85

Total Interest on Investment

TOTAL COST FOR YEAR
Credit for fruit (@ $38.84/ton* 3d yr.; $65/ton 4th yr. **)
Net cost for year
Total accumulated cost
$ 227.83 $ 337.05 $ 404.67 $ 451.15
$ 227.83 $ 372.05 $ 210.47 $ 313.15
$ 227.83 $ 599.88 $ 810.35 $ 943.50

* 1959-63 5-year average price $38.84 per ton for crushing.
** 4.2 tons shipping fruit + 1.8 tons culls ($25/ton).

Based on man labor @ $1.30 & $.50 per hr. (includes workmen’s compensation, social security, & other benefits); medium wheel tractor per hr., cash cost $1.20, depreciation 55 cents; interest 25 cents.

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ABOUT THIS SHEET

This sheet is one of a series on sample costs of establishing vineyards in the San Joaquin Valley. They include: Thompson Seedless for Raisins or Wine, Thompson Seedless for Table Use, Emperors, and Standard Wine Varieties. These input and cost data are to be used only as guides in determining the costs of establishing a specific vineyard. They are not intended to represent industry averages.

LAND PREPARATION — The cost of leveling land for irrigation was included in the land value. Subsoiling, fumigation, or releveling costs would be additional.

ROOTINGS — Cost is based on planting rooted cuttings. When cuttings are planted directly in the vineyard, the overall cost of rootings, planting, and replanting is sometimes less. If resistant rootstocks are used, the overall cost would probably be $100 to $150 more per acre.

IRRIGATION — Irrigation labor and water sample costs are based on a pumping system with pipeline. Labor cost per acre is affected by the number of irrigations, quantity applied, and size of head. Large heads of water may lower the labor costs. When all the water is from an irrigation district, the investment overhead costs of depreciation and interest on irrigation facilities are normally lower.

PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL — Dusting and spraying costs may vary considerably from year to year. Control measures required also vary between vineyards. The sample costs shown on this sheet are based on average conditions.

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