

W. J. ...

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE PRUNES - NON-TILLAGE
Glenn County
December 1972

Labor including fringe costs
Skilled - \$2.50/hour
Unskilled - \$2.20/hour

Production Data:

3 dry tons/acre (3.2: 1 ratio) of 70/80 size. 110 trees/acre. 100 acre unit.

Operation	Hours Per Acre	Cash and labor cost per acre				Total	Cost Per Ton	Your Cost
		Labor	Fuel & Repairs	Materials				
				Kind and Quantity	Cost			
Cultural Costs								
Prune 110 trees @.40		\$44.00				\$44.00		
Chop or remove brush	1.5	3.75	\$2.25			6.00		
Spray 3X (dormant, fungus, spider mites)	.7	1.75	3.68	Pesticides	\$20.90	26.33		
Fertilize				Nitrogen 135 lbs. @ \$.11 & application	14.85	14.85		
				Potash 20 lbs./tree every 5 yrs. or 4 lbs. every yr. = 440 lbs. @ \$7 and application	32.80	32.80		
Chop 5X	1.25	3.13	1.88			5.01		
Irrigate 6X	6.0	13.20	2.00	2 1/2 acre ft. @\$2.25	5.63	20.83		
Tying and/or lop pruning	2.5	5.50				5.50		
c.	2.0	5.00			1.00	6.00		
TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS		\$76.33	\$9.81		\$75.18	\$161.32	\$ 53.77	
Harvest Costs								
Harvest (contract) 9.6 green tons @ \$16.00					\$153.60	\$153.60		
Bin handling & haul to dryer					3.15	3.15		
Bin rental @ \$4.00/bin					7.00	7.00		
Dehydrator (contract) 9.6 green tons @ \$19.00					182.40	182.40		
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS					\$346.15	\$346.15	\$115.38	
Cash Overhead								
Misc., office, interest on operating capital, etc. - 6% of above					\$ 30.45	\$ 30.45		
Taxes (\$800/acre x 25% x 6.76 rate)					13.52	13.52		
TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD					\$ 43.97	\$ 43.97	\$ 14.65	
TOTAL CASH COST		\$76.33	\$9.81		\$465.30	\$551.44	\$183.81	
Management 5% of 3.0 tons @ \$300						\$ 45.00	\$ 15.00	
INVESTMENT								
	<u>Per Acre</u>			<u>Annual Cost</u>				
				<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Interest 7%</u>			
Land	\$ 800.00			-----	\$ 56.00			
Trees	2,000.00			\$ 80.00	70.00			
Irrigation system	150.00			7.50	5.25			
Buildings	50.00			2.50	1.75			
Equipment	237.00			23.70	8.32			
Total	\$3,237.00			\$113.70	\$141.32	\$255.02	\$ 85.01	
TOTAL COST PER ACRE						\$851.46	\$283.82	
Cost Per Ton at Varying Yields								
Yield - Tons per Acre	2	3	4					
Cost per ton	\$361.57	\$283.82	\$247.21	UC Cooperative Extension				

MONTHLY CASH FLOW FOR PRUNES

Glenn County
December 1972

Operation	Total	Month											
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Cultural Costs													
Prune	\$ 44.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Brush removal	6.00		3.00	3.00									
Spray 3X	26.33	8.78			8.78		8.78						
Fertilize													
Nitrogen	14.85		14.85										
Potash	32.80										32.80		
Chop 5X	5.01				1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.01				
Irrigate 6X	20.83				3.47	3.47	3.47	3.47	3.47	3.47			
Tying and/or lop pruning	5.50		2.75					2.75					
Misc.	6.00		3.00						3.00				
Total	161.32												
Harvest Costs													
Harvest	346.15								\$346.15				
Total	346.15												
Cash Overhead													
Miscellaneous	30.45	2.54	2.54	2.54	2.54	2.54	2.54	2.54	2.54	2.54	2.54	2.54	2.54
Taxes	13.52				6.76								6.76
Rent													
Total	43.97												
Total Cash Cost	\$551.44	\$33.32	\$48.14	\$ 5.54	\$22.55	\$ 7.01	\$15.79	\$ 9.76	\$356.17	\$ 6.01	\$35.34	\$ 2.54	\$ 9.30

EQUIPMENT INVESTMENT FOR PRUNES

Glenn County
December 1972

Based on 100 acres of prunes
(110 trees per acre)

Item	Cost	Annual Use (acres)	Cost Per Acre	Life (yrs.)	Depreciation	7% Interest	Cash costs per hour		
							Fuel	Repairs	Total
Tractor W.D. 45 H.P.	\$ 6,300	100	\$ 63.00	10	\$ 6.30	\$ 2.21	\$.32	\$.68	\$ 1.00
Tractor W.D. 35 H.P.	5,400	100	54.00	10	5.40	1.89	.21	.54	.75
Sprayer P.T.O.	4,000	100	40.00	10	4.00	1.40	---	2.75	2.75
Chopper 10' P.T.O.	2,000	100	20.00	10	2.00	.70	---	.50	.50
Disc 8'	700	100	7.00	10	.70	.25	---	.50	.50
Ridger	300	100	3.00	15	.30	.11	---	.25	.25
Tool bar	200	100	2.00	15	.20	.07	---	.10	.10
Springtooth 11'	300	100	3.00	10	.30	.11	---	.55	.55
Truck 2 T. (1/2 share)	2,500	100	25.00	10	2.50	.88			
Pickup (1/2 share)	2,000	100	20.00	10	2.00	.70			
Total	\$28,200	xxx	\$237.00	xx	\$23.70	\$8.32			

Cultural costs as shown are based upon maximum recommended requirements. It is recognized that in a given year it may not be necessary for all practices (pest control, etc.) to be performed.

Chopping orchard weed growth is now used by the majority of prune growers. Orchards where non-tillage is practiced will benefit by "working up" the orchard floor every few years. This prevents dense sod formation, and on some soil types improve water penetration.

Fertilizer programs are not constant on a year to year basis. Amounts of "N" may be reduced in years of light crop. Potassium Sulfate (potash) is recommended at high levels, usually 15 to 20 pounds per tree. A band applied application at these rates should last 3 to 4 years before retreatment is necessary, depending on crop yields and soil type.

The number of pest sprays may vary from orchard to orchard. Mites may become a summer pest problem, especially in cultivated orchards. This cost study allows for three seasonal sprays. Summer showers can stimulate fruit rot. Such situations might require pre-harvest fruit spray or dusting.

The investment shown for trees reflects input costs covering those years up to self-sustaining production.

Interest on investment costs represents 6 per cent on the average value of all depreciable items. Land does not depreciate; therefore, interest is computed on the full value.

Land taxes are calculated by multiplying the market value by twenty-five percent times the tax rate. Taxes on depreciable property is allowed in the miscellaneous cost.

Note the blank column on the right margin. This is for your use in comparing your costs with the sample costs.

Prepared by Farm Advisor Roy B. Jeter, Glenn County and Extension Economist Philip Parsons, U.C. Davis

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