



*Sample Costs  
to Produce*  
**WINE GRAPES**  
*in the Lower  
Sacramento Valley*

1976

Division of Agricultural Sciences  
**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

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SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE WINE GRAPES

Lower Sacramento Valley - 1976

Based on 80 acre vineyard. Yield: 8 tons/acre. Labor rates including fringe benefits \$4.00 and \$3.50 per hour.

Operation	Hours per acre	Cash and labor cost per acre				Total
		Labor	Fuel & repairs	Materials	Cost	
Dollars						
<u>Cultural Costs</u>						
Prune	22.0	77.00				77.00
Brush disposal				Contract	5.00	5.00
Fertilizer				N 50# applied	13.50	13.50
Pest & disease control	1.5	6.00	4.00	Material	20.00	30.00
Tillage	3.0	12.00	5.50			17.50
Herbicide				Applied	15.00	15.00
Irrigate	9.0	31.50	2.50	Water 3 ac.ft. @ \$4	12.00	46.00
Miscellaneous		5.75	5.00		10.00	20.75
Interest on operating capital					11.10	11.10
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS</b>		<b>132.25</b>	<b>17.00</b>		<b>86.60</b>	<b>235.85</b>
<u>Harvest Costs</u>						
Pick and haul				Contract 8 tons @ \$32.00	256.00	
<b>TOTAL HARVEST COSTS</b>						<b>256.00</b>
<u>Cash Overhead</u>						
Misc., office, etc.					28.50	
Taxes					25.65	
Rent				25% of 8 tons @ \$100	200.00	
<b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</b>						<b>254.15</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH COST</b>		<b>132.25</b>	<b>17.00</b>		<b>596.75</b>	<b>746.00</b>
Management 5% of 8 tons @ \$100						40.00
<u>Investment</u>						
	<u>Per Acre</u>			<u>Annual Cost</u>		
				<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Interest @ 8%</u>	
Equipment	\$300			\$30.00	\$12.00	42.00
<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</b>						<b>828.00</b>
<b>Cost per ton @ 8 ton yield</b>						<b>103.50</b>

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### WINE GRAPE CULTURAL BRIEFS

Soil Requirements: Grapes grow fairly well in many different soils. The deeper and more fertile soils usually produce the heaviest crops but some varieties reach higher quality on soils of limited depth. Avoid very heavy clays, very shallow soils, poorly drained soils, and soils with relatively high concentrations of alkali salts, boron, and other toxic materials.

Harvest Dates: September to November.

Fertilizer: About 50 pounds of nitrogen per acre are usually sufficient. Excess fertilizer may cause the plants to produce excessive vegetative growth rather than fruit.

Irrigation: Grapes will require 2-3 feet of irrigation water per year. Apply up to 6 inches per irrigation depending on the depth and water holding capacity of the soil.

Weed Control: Use cultivation and herbicides as necessary to control weeds.

Insect Control: Control measures may be necessary for grape leaf hopper and the Pacific mite. If nematodes are a problem in your soil, consider fumigation before planting and use resistant rootstocks.

Diseases: Possible disease problems include oak root fungus, leaf roll, corky bark, phylloxera, yellow mosaic and yellow vein. Obtain accurate diagnosis and use recommended treatments. Check with your farm advisor as to whether you need phylloxera resistant rootstocks.

Marketing: Be sure you have a contract with a winery so you will have a home for your grapes.

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