

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

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WINTER-PLANTED STRAWBERRIES SAMPLE PRODUCTION COSTS
Orange-Los Angeles Counties (1975)

The table on the reverse side shows sample costs for producing winter planted strawberries in Orange and Los Angeles Counties. The cost data summary was made to help the grower better analyze the economics of his strawberry operation. The sample costs represent typical costs of efficient commercial operations in Orange and Los Angeles Counties. They are presented only as a guide and do not represent the industry's average costs of production.

Sample costs are based on the following assumptions:

1. The land being farmed has been planted to strawberries for at least two consecutive years and is proven berry ground.
2. The crop is grown as an annual, requiring land-leveling, fumigation, and replanting each year.
3. The operation is a ten-acre planting on leased land in Los Angeles or Orange County.
4. The farm is owner-operated with no charge made for management.
5. Water costs are based on approximate cost of city water. Water from various sources such as well water, metropolitan and municipal water districts would vary in cost.
6. Sample costs are preharvest costs only. Harvesting costs, including trays, baskets, clips, and picking, range between \$1.25-1.50 for each 12 pint tray of fruit. A 5-10¢ per tray handling charge should also be included.
7. Principal varieties grown are Tioga and Tufts.
8. Winter-planted strawberries produce about 3000 12-pint trays/acre in Orange County.
9. If drip irrigation is used water costs may be reduced, however, the installation costs run \$500-800 per acre the first year and \$300-500 during subsequent years.

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Cost Item, Operation & Equipment	Hours Per Acre	Hired Labor	Costs Per Acre		
			Tractor & Equipment	Material--kind & amount--cost	Total Cost
Remove old plastic from bed	12	\$ 27.00			\$ 27.00
Disc, plow, level 6 times, chisel 4 times furrow, harrow	15	45.00	\$ 37.50		82.50
Grade, stake	5	12.50			12.50
Fumigate (contract)	2	4.50		250 lb. 2MB + 1 CP 1 to 1½ mil polyethylene \$450.00	454.50
Planting - hand work	60	135.00			135.00
Planting - tractor and driver	2	6.00	5.00	40,000 plants @\$22 to \$27.50/1000 1000.00	1011.00
Fertilize 2 times, preplant and postplant	4	12.00	10.00	Chemical 400.00	422.00
Irrigate:					
Sprinkler 10 times	25	58.00		15" @ \$5.00(city water) 75.00	138.00
Furrow 24 times	48	108.00		36" @ \$5.00 180.00	288.00
Weed 2 times	20	45.00			45.00
Polyethylene bed mulch: Application & train plants through poly during growth	45	101.00		200 lb. 1 1/4 mil 32" per- forated @ 0.70 140.00	241.00
Replant	5	11.25		4,000 plants 100.00	111.25
Pest control 5 times	3	9.00	5.00	Pesticides 60.00	74.00
Equipment repairs	8		20.00	Parts 40.00	60.00
Land rent				350.00	350.00
Miscellaneous overhead				45.00	45.00
TOTAL PREHARVEST CASH COSTS					\$3496.75

Item	Investment		Depreciation		Interest	Depreciation Interest	TOTAL COSTS PER ACRE EXCEPT HARVEST
	Total	Per Acre	Per Acre	Per Acre	Per Acre		
Tractor & implements:	\$30,000	\$3,000	\$300.00	\$180.00		440.00	
1-ton pickup, covered	5,000	500	50.00	30.00		264.00	
Sprinkler system ½ hr. @ 40-50 lb. pressure	5,000	500	50.00	30.00			
Shed, carts, handtools & misc.	4,000	400	40.00	24.00			
TOTAL	\$44,000	\$4,400	\$440.00	\$264.00			4200.75