

CHERRY TOMATOES
 COST ANALYSIS ESTIMATES - 1981

Labor/grower costs are \$4.25 per hour
 Equipment includes medium wheel tractor at \$5.50 per hour
 and small wheel tractor at \$4.00 per hour
 Based on yield of 2,500 12 pt. boxes/acre

<u>Cultural/Preharvest Costs:</u>	<u>Hours/Acre</u>		<u>Dollars Dollars</u>	
	<u>Machinery</u>	<u>Labor</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>
			<u>Materials</u>	<u>Total Costs</u>
				<u>Your Costs</u>
Land Preparation, medium wheel tractor	2.5	2.5		\$ 24.38
Disc and Form Beds, medium wheel tractor	1.5	1.5		14.63
Preplant Fertilizer, small wheel tractor	.5	.5	16.00	20.13
Transplants \$28/1,000, 3,000/plants/acre			84.00	84.00
Plant 2 persons, 8 hours		16.0		68.00
Irrigation 4 ac. ft. 14x, 2 hrs.		28.0		119.00
Pump/electricity \$5.30/hr.				148.40
Fertilizer Approx. 10 times small wheel tractor				
180 lbs. N at .30¢	10.0	15.0	54.00	157.75
Stake		15.0		63.75
Stringing 11x		66.0		280.50
1.5 cases at \$120 per case			180.00	180.00
Cultivate, small wheel tractor				
4 times	4.0	4.0		33.00
Pest, disease control				
3 x 5 hours		15.0	70.00	133.75
Pull stakes, clean-up		24.0		102.00
Repairs			30.00	30.00
Rent				150.00
6% Overhead				<u>93.32</u>
Total Preharvest Costs			Per Acre	\$1,705.85
			Per Box	.68

Harvest Costs:

Cartons 2,500 at .72¢	\$1,800.00
Labor per box .91¢	2,275.00
Packing & Grading .75¢	1,875.00
Transportation .10¢	<u>250.00</u>
Total Harvest Costs (per box 2.48)	\$6,200.00
Total Variable Costs	7,905.85
Per Box	3.16

Marketing costs need to be computed by the grower. Salesperson will explain to you percentage charged on commission or other charges that may be levied.

Fixed Costs (Based on 15 acre mixed vegetable small farm)

	<u>Your Costs</u>
Depreciation	
Equipment/Machinery \$13,190 for 10 years, 15 acres	\$87.93
Irrigation Equipment \$750 for 15 years, 15 acres	3.33
Stakes 1,500 at .55¢, 7 years	<u>117.86</u>
Total depreciation costs per acre	\$209.12
Interest on Investment at 14%	
1/2 \$13, 40, 15 acres (464.67 x .14)	\$ 65.05
1/2 825 (412.50 x .14)	<u>57.75</u>
Total Investment Costs Per Acre	<u>\$122.80</u>
Total Fixed Costs Per Acre	<u>\$331.92</u>
Total Costs Per Acre (2,500 12 pt. box yield)	\$8,237.77
Total Costs Per Box	3.29

Sample Cost of Production at Varying Yields

Yield	1,500	2,000	2,500	3,000	3,500
Cartons Per Acre	1,500	2,000	2,500	3,000	3,500
Variable Costs per Carton	3.62	3.33	3.16	3.05	2.97
Total Costs Per Carton	3.84	3.50	3.29	3.16	3.06

This cost study was based on interviews with several growers in the Nipomo-Santa Maria area. Cherry tomato season extends from March through December and is terminated by the first killing frost.

Much labor is required for cherry tomato culture. The grower and his/her family normally provide much of this labor, even though each hour of labor is charged at \$4.25 per hour in this cost study. Total estimated labor requirement per acre is 1,164 hours, for a 2,500 box yield, which is approximately .42 full time man years. (1,164 hrs. ÷ 2750 hrs/man/year) = .42

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