



Prunes:  
*Cost of  
Production;  
Cost to  
Establish*  
*in the Lower  
Sacramento Valley*  
1975

Division of Agricultural Sciences  
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SAMPLE COSTS TO ESTABLISH PRUNE ORCHARDS  
Lower Sacramento Valley - 1975

Based on 100 acres planted 20'x20' - 108 trees/acre, labor @ \$3.25 including fringe benefits

Operation	Year					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Yield - ton					.8	1.2
Income @ \$400/ton					\$320	\$480
<u>Planting costs</u>						
Land preparation	\$ 50					
Plant, survey, dig holes	40					
Trees @ \$1.45	156					
TOTAL PLANTING COSTS	246					
<u>Cultural costs</u>						
Prune and remove brush	3	\$ 10	\$ 16	\$ 26	44	81
Fertilizer		4	12	16	20	24
Spray	6	15	22	26	30	36
Cultivate	18	20	23	25	27	30
Irrigate	30	30	30	36	36	36
Whitewash	7	7	7			
Replant		8	5			
Miscellaneous cultural	10	10	10	10	10	10
TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS	74	104	125	139	167	217
<u>Harvest costs</u>						
Bin handling & rental, haul to dryer, dehydrate and contract harvest					115	165
TOTAL HARVEST COSTS					115	165
<u>Overhead costs</u>						
Miscellaneous overhead	30	10	13	15	25	34
Taxes	70	70	70	70	85	85
Management	35	35	35	35	35	35
Depreciation	40	40	40	40	40	40
Interest 8%		40	64	91	122	144
TOTAL OVERHEAD COSTS	175	195	222	251	307	338
TOTAL COST PER ACRE	495	299	347	390	589	720
Net Cost per acre					269	240
Accumulated cost	495	794	1,141	1,531	1,800	2,040
<u>Investment</u>						
Land	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250
Trees		495	794	1,141	1,531	1,800
Irrigation system	300	300	300	300	300	300
Buildings	50	50	50	50	50	50
Equipment	600	600	600	600	600	600
TOTAL INVESTMENT	\$2,200	\$2,695	\$2,994	\$3,341	\$3,731	\$4,000

Total accumulated cost through 6th year = \$2,040

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE PRUNES  
Lower Sacramento Valley - 1975

Yield 3 tons per acre (10 green tons). Labor @ \$3.25 per hour including fringe benefits.  
Based on 100 acres with 20' x 20' spacing - 108 trees/acre.

Operation	Hours per acre	Cash and labor cost per acre				Total
		Labor	Fuel & repairs	Materials Kind & quantity	Cost	
dollars						
<u>Cultural Costs</u>						
Prune - 108 trees @ \$1/tree		108.00				108.00
Chop or remove brush	1.5	4.90	2.20			7.10
Spray - 3 X	1.0	3.25	7.50	Materials	36.00	46.75
Fertilize	.3	1.00	.60	Nitrogen 100# @ 30¢	30.00	31.60
Disc - 5X	2.2	7.15	4.85			12.00
Ridge up & knock down 5X	2.2	7.15	7.35			14.50
Irrigate 7X	7.0	22.75		3 ac. ft. @ \$4.50	13.50	36.25
Replants	1.0	3.25			1.50	4.75
<b>TOTAL CULTURAL COSTS</b>		<b>157.45</b>	<b>22.50</b>		<b>81.00</b>	<b>260.95</b>
<u>Harvest Costs</u>						
Land plane	.5	1.65	1.60			3.25
Harvest				Contract @ \$7/bin	116.67	116.67
Bin handling & haul to dryer					12.00	12.00
Bin rental				\$6/acre	6.00	6.00
Dehydrate				\$25/ton	250.00	250.00
<b>TOTAL HARVEST COSTS</b>		<b>1.65</b>	<b>1.60</b>		<b>384.67</b>	<b>387.92</b>
<u>Cash Overhead</u>						
Misc., office, etc.					37.43	
Taxes					85.00	
<b>TOTAL CASH OVERHEAD</b>					<b>122.43</b>	<b>122.43</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH COST</b>		<b>159.10</b>	<b>24.10</b>		<b>588.10</b>	<b>771.30</b>
Management 5% of 3 tons @ \$400 (\$1,200)						60.00
<u>Annual Cost</u>						
<u>Investment</u>	<u>Per Acre</u>	<u>Depreciation</u>		<u>Interest 8%</u>		
Land	1,250			100.00		
Trees	2,040		81.60	81.60		
Irrig. System	300		15.00	12.00		
Buildings	50		2.50	2.00		
Equipment	600		60.00	24.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,240</b>		<b>159.10</b>	<b>219.60</b>		<b>378.70</b>
<b>TOTAL COST PER ACRE</b>						<b>1,210.00</b>
Cost per ton @ 3 ton yield						403.33

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## EQUIPMENT INVESTMENT FOR PRUNE PRODUCTION

Lower Sacramento Valley - 1975

Item	Cost	Operation Cost Per Hour
Tractor, 50 hp wheel diesel	\$11,200	\$ 1.50
Tractor, 30 hp wheel diesel	7,200	1.30
Speed sprayer, 500 gal. (50 WD)	14,000	6.00
Buck rake (30 WD)	750	.15
Harrow, offset disc 10' (30 WD)	2,000	.90
Land plane (50 WD)	7,100	1.70
Float 12' (50 WD)	550	.25
Fertilizer spreader	500	
Pick-up, ½ ton	4,500	7.10
Truck, 1½ ton	7,000	12.00
Ridger (50 WD)	1,000	.20
Roller 18' (30 WD)	2,500	.35
Ladders & pruning equipment	1,000	.15
Weed sprayer	250	.20
Total Investment	\$59,550.00	
Per acre on 100 acres	595.50	
Depreciation per acre	39.70	
Interest per acre	23.82	

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