

APPLE and PEAR COSTS IN MICHIGAN

By K. T. Wright and
Walter Toenjes, 1946

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The cost figures reported in this bulletin were secured in a survey conducted in 1943 in southern Michigan.

Apple

Records were secured on 91 orchards with an average of 31 acres of bearing trees per farm with a range of from 2 to 225 acres. Interesting figures are presented on various items of cost.

In summarizing the observations the authors conclude that apple producers who expect to meet competition and still make money must: (1) locate orchards on sites with good air and water drainage, (2) select productive soil and maintain fertility, (3) plant productive varieties which sell well, (4) follow best management practices to secure yields of at least 200 bushels per acre, (5) give special attention to high quality, (6) follow good harvesting, handling and marketing methods, and (7) operate at as low a cost per acre as can be done without lowering the yield or quality of apples.

Pear

This portion of the bulletin reports a survey of 45 pear orchards ranging from 1 to 50 acres and having an average of 15 acres. The costs per bushel were unusually high because the average yield was only 45 bushels per acre. It is evident that pear growers must do everything they can to increase their average yields and to lower costs of production if they are to stay in business.—WPJ.



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