

## Preface

The results presented in this WSU publication serve as a general guide for evaluating the feasibility of producing Granny Smith apples in Washington State as of 2019. This publication is not intended to be a definitive guide to production practices, but it is helpful in estimating the physical and financial requirements of comparable plantings. Specific budget assumptions were adopted for this study, but these assumptions may not fit every situation since production costs and returns vary across orchard operations, depending on the following factors:

- Capital, labor, and natural resources
- Crop yields
- Type and size of machinery, irrigation, and frost control systems
- Input prices
- Cultural practices
- Apple prices
- Orchard size
- Management skills

Cost estimations in the enterprise budget also vary depending on its intended use. To avoid drawing unwarranted conclusions for any particular orchard, readers must closely examine the assumptions made in this guide, and then adjust the costs, returns, or both as appropriate for their own orchard operation.

## Granny Smith Production in Washington State

During 2006-2017, bearing acres of Granny Smith in Washington State have decreased by $31 \%$, from 23,593 acres planted in 2006 to 16,267 total bearing acres in 2017. While this publication does not explore the specific reasons that explain the decrease in acres planted to Granny Smith, one may surmise that this shift is due to consumers selecting other apple varieties that more closely meet their preferred flavor and texture profile than

Granny Smith. In 2017, Granny Smith was the fifth largest cultivar in acreage with $9 \%$ of Washington State's total apple acreage, only after Gala, Red Delicious, Fuji, and Honeycrisp. Across the state, $52 \%$ of the Granny Smith acreage are in the Yakima district, $26 \%$ in the Columbia Basin, $13 \%$ in the Wenatchee Valley, and $9 \%$ in other areas (USDA NASS 2017).

As of 2018-2019, in terms of fresh apple shipments, Granny Smith is the fourth largest cultivar grown in Washington State, with $11.5 \%$ of total shipments, following after the traditional cultivars, Red Delicious, Gala, and Fuji. A total of 13.5 million 40 lb boxes of Granny Smith were sold in the 2018-2019 season (WSTFA 2020). During 2018-2019, the average free on board (FOB) price of Granny Smith was at $\$ 28.8 / 40 \mathrm{lb}$ box, compared with Red Delicious at $\$ 17.7 / 40 \mathrm{lb}$ box, Gala at $\$ 25.6 / 40 \mathrm{lb}$ box, Fuji at $\$ 25.7 / 40 \mathrm{lb}$ box, and Honeycrisp at $\$ 53 / 40 \mathrm{lb}$ box.

## Study Objectives

This publication is designed to enable owner-operators to estimate: (1) the costs of equipment, materials, supplies, and labor required to establish and produce a Granny Smith orchard and (2) the ranges of price and yield at which Granny Smith production would be a profitable enterprise.

The primary use of this report is in identifying inputs, costs, and yields considered to be typical of well-managed Granny Smith orchards. This publication does not necessarily represent any particular orchard operation and is not intended to be a definitive guide to production practices. However, it describes current industry trends and, as such, can be helpful in estimating the physical and financial requirements of comparable plantings.

## Information Sources

The data used in this study were gathered from a group of experienced Granny Smith owner-operators in Washington State. Their production practices and input requirements form the baseline assumptions that were used to develop the enterprise budget. Additionally, the data represent what these owner-
operators anticipate over an orchard's life if no unforeseen failures occur. Given that many factors affect production costs, pack-out, and returns, individual owner-operators can refer to the Excel Workbook section to estimate their own costs and returns.

## Budget Assumptions

1. The area of the total farm operation is 300 acres. Bearing acres include 225 acres of apples ( $75 \%$ of total area), 48 acres of sweet cherries (16\%), and 27 acres of pears ( $9 \%$ ).
2. This budget is based on a 33-acre Granny Smith block within a 300 -acre orchard. It is assumed that $5 \%$ of this block is dedicated to roads, pond, loading area, buildings, etc., rather than to fruit production. Therefore, the total productive area for this block is 31 acres. Table 1 shows the assumed Granny Smith block specifications.
3. The total value of bare agricultural land (including water rights) is $\$ 18,000$ per acre with annual property taxes of $\$ 170$ per acre.
4. For this study, the investment in infrastructure, cultural practices, and harvest activities aim to capture state-of-theart practices in apple production across Washington.
However, consider that not all investments are representative for the majority of apple operations. For example, the use of netting is becoming widespread; yet sunburn protectant sprays or overhead cooling are still the predominant sunburn protection methods.
5. The irrigation system consists of overhead cooling and under-tree drip sprinklers, with two separate sub-main lines. Water is provided through a public irrigation district.
6. The pond is installed in Year 1.
7. Cultural practices and harvest activities are done by using a combination of ladders and labor-enhancing equipment. The hourly labor rate for 2019 is calculated using the Washington adverse wage rate for 2019 at $\$ 15.03 /$ hour. We add $25 \%$ to reflect medical leave, payroll taxes, and all administrative costs for H 2 A employees, including housing, amounting to $\$ 18.79 /$ hour. Activities such as chemical application, irrigation, and frost protection are assumed to cost $\$ 16.03 /$ hour, plus $25 \%$ for a total of $\$ 20.04 /$ hour. Note that pruning and thinning are usually paid on a piece rate basis, but this study uses an hourly equivalent. Harvest labor
rates follow the Department of Labor rates, plus $4 \%$ to account for mandated paid rest breaks. This study uses a piece rate payment structure for harvest.
8. The gross return is $\$ 437.5 / 875 \mathrm{lb}$ bin, equivalent to \$25/40 lb box.
9. Average pack-out for Granny Smith is $80 \%$ or 17.5 box/bin.
10. Warehouse packing charges assume a 875 lb bin.
11. Management is valued at $\$ 700$ per acre.
12. Interest on investment represents a $5 \%$ opportunity cost to the enterprise. These are forgone earnings for investing money in orchard, equipment, and buildings rather than in an alternative activity. This also represents interest on funds borrowed to finance orchard, equipment, and building purchases.

## Summary of Study Results

Table 2 shows the annual yields per year and the estimated annual cost and returns for a 31-acre block of Granny Smith apples in Washington State. Production costs are classified into variable costs and fixed costs. Variable costs comprise orchard operations, harvest activities, materials, maintenance and repairs, and packing costs. Fixed costs are incurred whether or not apples are produced. The fixed costs include depreciation on capital, interest, taxes, insurance, management, and amortized establishment costs. Management is treated as a fixed rather than a variable cost because, like land, management has been committed to the production cycle of the crop.

This study assumed that a Granny Smith orchard could achieve full production in the sixth year. Based on the assumptions listed above, the total production costs for Granny Smith during full production are estimated at $\$ 42,247.72$ per acre. The break-even price for Granny Smith apples as of 2019 is estimated at $\$ 621.29 / 875 \mathrm{lb}$ bin or $\$ 35.5 / 40 \mathrm{lb}$ box (considering $80 \%$ packout; 17.5 boxes per bin).

Table 3 shows the sensitivity of net returns to different combinations of price and yields. For this analysis, the range of FOB prices considered range from $\$ 420$ to $\$ 780$ per 875 lb bin ( $\$ 24$ to $\$ 44.6$ per 40 lb box), and the net yields range from 56 to 88 bins per acre. Any price and yield combination within the range, under the study production and cost assumptions, would result in a positive return for the owner-operator.

Table 1. Granny Smith block specifications.

| Architecture | Randomly trained with 18-inch radius from tree center |
| :--- | :--- |
| In-row Spacing | 3 feet |
| Between-row Spacing | 10 feet |
| Rootstock | Dwarf -9 series |
| Productive Block Size | 31 acres |
| Life of Planting | 20 years |
| Tree Density | 1,452 trees per acre |
| Trellis System | Vertical trellis system |

Table 2. Cost and returns per acre of establishing, producing, and packing Granny Smith on a 21-acre orchard block.

|  | Establishment Years |  |  |  |  | Full <br> Production ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Your } \\ & \text { Costs } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 |  |  |
| Estimated Net Production (bins/acre) ${ }^{\text {b }}$ |  |  | 32.00 | 44.00 | 56.00 | 68.00 |  |
| Estimated FOB Price (\$/bin) ${ }^{\text {c }}$ |  |  | 437.50 | 437.50 | 437.50 | 437.50 |  |
| Total Returns (\$/acre) |  |  | 14,000.00 | 19,250.00 | 24,500.00 | 29,750.00 |  |
| Variable Costs (\$/acre): |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Establishment |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Soil Preparation | 1,271.44 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Trees (including labor) | 12,960.26 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Orchard Activities |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pruning \& Training ${ }^{\text {d }}$ | 563.70 | 638.86 | 657.65 | 469.75 | 714.02 | 939.50 |  |
| Irrigation Labor ${ }^{\text {e }}$ | 200.40 | 200.40 | 200.40 | 200.40 | 200.40 | 200.40 |  |
| Herbicide ${ }^{\text {e,f }}$ | 88.03 | 254.77 | 253.38 | 300.29 | 253.38 | 253.97 |  |
| Insecticide ${ }^{\text {e,f }}$ | 0.00 | 207.51 | 837.37 | 784.90 | 837.37 | 809.70 |  |
| Fungicide ${ }^{\text {e,f }}$ | 578.95 | 670.29 | 666.12 | 668.84 | 666.12 | 667.87 |  |
| Rodenticide ${ }^{\text {e,f }}$ | 39.62 | 51.80 | 51.24 | 51.60 | 51.24 | 51.48 |  |
| Sunburn Protection ${ }^{\text {e,f }}$ | 0.00 | 0.00 | 412.29 | 413.01 | 412.29 | 412.75 |  |
| Chemical Thinning ${ }^{\text {e,f }}$ | 0.00 | 0.00 | 340.19 | 341.82 | 340.19 | 341.24 |  |
| Growth Regulator ${ }^{\mathrm{e}, \mathrm{f}}$ |  |  | 350.48 | 350.66 | 350.48 | 350.60 |  |
| Ripening Regulator ${ }^{\text {f }}$ |  |  | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 | 500.00 |  |
| Fertilizer ${ }^{\text {e,f }}$ | 0.00 | 86.22 | 126.30 | 126.30 | 126.30 | 126.30 |  |
| Sunburn ProtectionNetting ${ }^{g}$ |  |  | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 |  |
| Frost Protection (labor) ${ }^{\text {e }}$ |  |  | 8.02 | 8.02 | 8.02 | 8.02 |  |
| Beehives |  |  | 55.00 | 55.00 | 55.00 | 55.00 |  |
| General Farm Labor ${ }^{\text {h }}$ | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |  |
| Irrigation Water \& Electric Charge | 350.00 | 350.00 | 350.00 | 365.00 | 365.00 | 365.00 |  |
| $\underline{\text { Harvest Activities }}{ }^{\text {i }}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Picking Labor |  |  | 1,039.60 | 1,429.45 | 1,819.30 | 2,209.15 |  |
| Other Labor (checkers, tractor drivers, supervisors) |  |  | 320.00 | 440.00 | 560.00 | 680.00 |  |
| Hauling Apples |  |  | 280.00 | 385.00 | 490.00 | 595.00 |  |
| Warehouse Packing Charges ${ }^{\text {j }}$ |  |  | 8,900.00 | 12,237.50 | 15,575.00 | 18,912.50 |  |
| Maintenance and Repairs |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Maintenance \& Repair | 300.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 | 315.00 | 315.00 | 340.00 |  |
| Fuel \& Lube | 300.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 |  |
| Other Variable Costs |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Overhead (5\% of variable costs) ${ }^{\mathrm{k}}$ | 837.62 | 157.99 | 862.40 | 1,052.13 | 1,261.96 | 1,470.92 |  |
| Interest (5\% of variable costs) ${ }^{1}$ | 879.50 | 165.89 | 905.52 | 1,104.73 | 1,325.05 | 1,158.35 |  |


|  | Establishment Years |  |  |  |  | Full <br> Production ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Your } \\ & \text { Costs } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 |  |  |
| Total Variable Costs | 18,469.51 | 3,483.72 | 19,015.97 | 23,199.40 | 27,826.13 | 32,047.76 |  |
| Fixed Costs (\$/acre): |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Depreciation |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Irrigation System Sunburn Protection- | 140.00 | 140.00 | 140.00 | 140.00 | 140.00 | 140.00 |  |
| Netting | 400.00 | 400.00 | 400.00 | 400.00 | 400.00 | 400.00 |  |
| Machinery, Equipment \& Building | 261.92 | 261.92 | 261.92 | 261.92 | 261.92 | 261.92 |  |
| Mainline \& Pump | 30.00 | 30.00 | 30.00 | 30.00 | 30.00 | 30.00 |  |
| Pond | 48.00 | 48.00 | 48.00 | 48.00 | 48.00 | 48.00 |  |
| Trellis | 287.50 | 287.50 | 287.50 | 287.50 | 287.50 | 287.50 |  |
| Wind Machine |  |  | 113.33 | 113.33 | 113.33 | 113.33 |  |
| Interest |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Irrigation System Sunburn Protection- | 105.00 | 105.00 | 105.00 | 105.00 | 105.00 | 105.00 |  |
| Netting | 200.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 |  |
| Land ${ }^{\text {m }}$ | 900.00 | 900.00 | 900.00 | 900.00 | 900.00 | 900.00 |  |
| Machinery, Equipment \& Building | 92.04 | 92.04 | 92.04 | 92.04 | 92.04 | 92.04 |  |
| Mainline \& Pump | 22.50 | 22.50 | 22.50 | 22.50 | 22.50 | 22.50 |  |
| Pond | 60.00 | 60.00 | 60.00 | 60.00 | 60.00 | 60.00 |  |
| Trellis | 143.75 | 143.75 | 143.75 | 143.75 | 143.75 | 143.75 |  |
| Wind Machine |  |  | 85.00 | 85.00 | 85.00 | 85.00 |  |
| Establishment Costs (5\%) |  | 1,115.01 | 1,536.48 | 2,075.81 | 2,588.77 |  |  |
| Other Fixed Costs |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Miscellaneous Supplies | 150.00 | 150.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 |  |
| Land \& Property Taxes | 170.00 | 170.00 | 170.00 | 170.00 | 170.00 | 170.00 |  |
| Insurance Cost (all farm) | 120.00 | 120.00 | 175.00 | 175.00 | 175.00 | 175.00 |  |
| Management Cost <br> Amortized Establishment Costs ${ }^{\text {n }}$ | 700.00 | 700.00 | 700.00 | 700.00 | 700.00 | 700.00 $5,965.93$ |  |
| Total Fixed Costs | 3,830.71 | 4,945.72 | 5,770.52 | 6,309.84 | 6,822.81 | 10,199.97 |  |
| TOTAL COSTS | 22,300.22 | 8,429.44 | 24,786.49 | 29,509.24 | 34,648.93 | 42,247.72 |  |
| ESTIMATED NET RETURNS | -22,300.22 | -8,429.44 | -10,786.49 | -10,259.24 | -10,148.93 | -12,497.72 |  |

Accumulated
$\begin{array}{llllll}\text { Establishment Costs } & 22,300.22 & 30,729.66 & 41,516.16 & 51,775.40 & 61,924.33\end{array}$

[^0]${ }^{d}$ Hand labor rate is $\$ 18.79 /$ hour and includes all applicable taxes and benefits.
${ }^{e}$ Tractor/machinery, irrigation, and frost protection labor rate is $\$ 20.04 /$ hour and includes all applicable taxes and benefits.
${ }^{f}$ Includes materials and labor.
${ }^{\mathrm{g}}$ Labor cost only.
${ }^{\text {h }}$ General farm labor rate is a lump sum per acre and applied to miscellaneous/all other labor. Rate includes applicable taxes and benefits.
${ }^{\text {' }}$ Picking rate $=\$ 25.99 / \mathrm{bin}$; checkers' and tractor drivers' rate $=\$ 8 / \mathrm{bin}$; hauling rate $=\$ 7 / \mathrm{bin}$. (Hauling refers to transportation cost from the orchard to the warehouse. It is assumed that warehouse will cover additional transportation expenses [if any] when the orchard is located in remote areas.)
${ }^{j}$ Packing charges include receiving charges per bin plus total box charges per bin. Pack-out number of boxes per bin is 16.4.
${ }^{k}$ Captures indirect costs of operations in the orchard that fluctuate with the level of production but are not accounted by the variable costs already identified. Also captures unforeseeable expenses.
${ }^{1}$ Interest expense on full year during establishment years and for three-quarters of a year during full production.
${ }^{m}$ Land cost is approximated by using the $5 \%$ interest rate multiplied by the land value of $\$ 18,000$ per acre.
${ }^{n}$ Represents the costs incurred during the establishment years (minus revenues during those years) that must be recaptured during the full production years. It is calculated as accumulated establishment costs in Year 5 amortized at 5\% for 15 years.

Table 3. Estimated net returns (\$) per acre at various prices and yields of Granny Smith during full production ${ }^{\text {a }}$.

| Net Yield (bin/acre) $)^{\mathrm{b}}$ | FOB Price $(\mathbf{\$} / \mathbf{b i n})^{\mathrm{c}}$ |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\$ 420$ | $-\$ 14,422$ | $-\$ 9,382$ | $-\$ 4,342$ | $\$ 600$ |
| 56 | $-\$ 13,933$ | $-\$ 8,173$ | $-\$ 2,413$ | $\$ 698$ | $\$ 5,738$ |
| 64 | $-\$ 13,443$ | $-\$ 6,963$ | $-\$ 483$ | $\$ 3,347$ | $\$ 9,107$ |
| 72 | $-\$ 12,953$ | $-\$ 5,753$ | $\$ 1,447$ | $\$ 8,647$ | $\$ 12,477$ |
| 80 | $-\$ 12,464$ | $-\$ 4,544$ | $\$ 3,376$ | $\$ 11,296$ | $\$ 15,847$ |
| 88 | $5 \%$ |  |  |  | $\$ 19,216$ |
| Overhead cost | $5 \%$ |  |  |  |  |
| Interest cost |  |  |  |  |  |

Notes: Shaded area denotes a positive profit based on the combination of yield and price.
${ }^{a}$ Includes amortized establishment costs. Net return is what the grower receives after all costs (for example, production expenses and packing costs) have been accounted. The net price and net yield assumed in the baseline budget (Table 2) was $\$ 437.50 /$ bin and 68 bins per acre.
${ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ Assumes an 875-pound bin. Takes into account an average pack-out equivalent to $80 \%$.
${ }^{\text {c }}$ Divide the prices in $\$ /$ bin by 17.5 to obtain equivalent prices in $\$ / 40 \mathrm{lb}$ box.
Table 4. Break-even return (\$/bin) for different levels of enterprise costs during full production of Granny Smith.

|  |  | Cost (\$/acre) | Break-Even Return (\$/bin) ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Your Cost } \\ & (\$ / \text { acre }) \end{aligned}$ | Your BreakEven Return <br> (\$/bin) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Total Variable Costs | 32,047.76 | 471.29 | b |  |  |
|  | ```Total Cash Costs}\mp@subsup{}{}{\textrm{c} = Total Variable Costs + Land & Property Taxes + Insurance Cost + Miscellaneous Supplies``` | 32,692.76 | 480.78 | d |  |  |
| 3. | Total Cash Costs + Depreciation Costs | 33,973.50 | 499.61 |  |  |  |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Total Cost } \\ & =\text { Total Cash Costs }+ \text { Depreciation Costs }+ \\ & \text { Interest Costs }{ }^{\mathrm{f}}+\text { Management Cost } \end{aligned}$ | 42,247.72 | 621.29 | g |  |  |
|  | Yield (bin/acre) $=$ | 68.00 |  |  |  |  |
| Notes: The net price and net yield assumed in the baseline budget (Table 2) was $\$ 437.50 / 875 \mathrm{lb}$ bin and 68 bins per acre. <br> ${ }^{a}$ Break-even return is calculated as cost divided by net yield during full production. <br> ${ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ If the return is below this level, Granny Smith apples are uneconomical to produce. <br> ${ }^{\text {c }}$ If there are other cash costs on an individual's orchard, these costs must be identified and included in the cash cost break-even return calculation. <br> ${ }^{d}$ The second break-even return allows the producer to stay in business in the short run. <br> ${ }^{\mathrm{e}}$ The third break-even return allows the producer to stay in business in the long run. |  |  |  |  |  |  |

PAGE 5
${ }^{\mathrm{f}}$ Interest costs include some actual cash interest payments.
${ }^{\mathrm{g}}$ The fourth break-even return is the total cost break-even return. Only when this break-even return is received can the grower recover all out-of-pocket expenses plus opportunity costs.

Table 5. Summary of annual capital requirements for a 31-acre Granny Smith block.

|  | Establishment Years |  |  |  |  | Full <br> Production ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 |  |
| Annual Requirements (\$) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Land (33 acres) | 594,000 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Trellis System | 178,250 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Netting-Sunburn Protection ${ }^{\text {b }}$ | 248,000 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Irrigation System | 130,200 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mainline \& Pump | 27,900 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pond | 74,400 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wind Machine |  |  | 105,398 |  |  |  |
| Operating Expenses ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | 607,895 | 143,335 | 631,190 | 760,876 | 904,305 | 1,035,175 |
| Total Requirements (\$) | 1,860,645 | 143,335 | 736,588 | 760,876 | 904,305 | 1,035,175 |
| Receipts (\$) | 0 | 0 | 434,000 | 596,750 | 759,500 | 922,250 |
| Net Requirements (\$) | 1,860,645 | 143,335 | 302,588 | 164,126 | 144,805 | 112,925 |

${ }^{\text {a }}$ The full production year is representative of all the remaining years the orchard is in full production (Year 6 to Year 20).
${ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ The use of netting is becoming widespread; however, up-to-date sunburn protectant sprays or overhead cooling are still the predominant sunburn protection methods.
${ }^{c}$ Operating expenses include the sum of the total variable costs, miscellaneous supplies, land and property taxes, insurance cost, and management cost.
Table 6. Machinery, equipment, and building requirements for a 300 -acre diverse cultivar orchard.

|  | Purchase Price (\$) | Number of Units | Total Cost (\$) |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Housing for Manager | 135,000 | 1 | 135,000 |
| Machine Shop/Shed ${ }^{\text {b }}$ | 150,000 | 1 | 150,000 |
| Tractor-70HP, 4WD | 45,000 | 5 | 225,000 |
| Tractor-40HP, 4WD | 25,000 | 2 | 50,000 |
| 4-Wheeler | 7,500 | 3 | 22,500 |
| Speed Sprayer | 25,000 | 5 | 125,000 |
| Weed Spray Boom \& Tank | 7,000 | 1 | 7,000 |
| Mower-Rotary (7 ft) | 5,000 | 1 | 5,000 |
| Flail Mower | 8,000 | 1 | 8,000 |
| Fork Lift | 25,000 | 2 | 50,000 |
| Bin Trailer | 7,500 | 3 | 22,500 |
| Pickup Truck | 35,000 | 1 | 35,000 |
| Ladder (8 ft) | 100 | 100 | 10,000 |
| Platforms | 40,000 | 3 | 120,000 |
| Miscellaneous Equipment ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | 50,000 | 1 | 50,000 |
| Shop Equipment | 15,000 | 1 | 15,000 |
| Total Cost |  |  | $\mathbf{1 , 0 3 0 , 0 0 0}$ |

[^1]${ }^{\text {c }}$ Includes two mobile portable toilets, box blade, straight blade, quick connect loader, mechanical weeder, detachable bucket for loading fertilizer, gopher baiter, soil aerator, utility trailer, and two ladder trailers.
${ }^{\text {d }}$ Includes compressor, welder, pressure washer, and miscellaneous tools.
Table 7. Annual interest costs per acre for a 31-acre Granny Smith block (\$/acre).

|  | Total Purchase <br> Price (\$) | Salvage Value <br> $(\$)^{\text {a }}$ | Number of <br> Acres | Total Interest <br> Cost $(\$)$ | Interest Cost <br> per Acre (\$) |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Irrigation System $^{\text {c }}$ | 130,200 | 0 | 31 | 3,255 | 105.00 |
| Sunburn Protection—Netting $^{\text {c }}$ | 248,000 | 0 | 31 | 6,200 | 200.00 |
| Land | 594,000 | $\mathrm{~N} / \mathrm{A}$ | 33 | 29,700 | 900.00 |
| Machinery, Equipment \& Building ${ }^{\text {d,e }}$ | $1,030,000$ | 74,500 | 300 | 27,613 | 92.04 |
| Mainline \& Pump $^{\text {c }}$ | 27,900 | 0 | 31 | 698 | 22.50 |
| Pond $^{\text {c }}$ | 74,400 | 0 | 31 | 1,860 | 60.00 |
| Trellis $^{\text {c }}$ | 178,250 | 0 | 31 | 4,456 | 143.75 |
| Wind Machine $^{\text {c }}$ | 105,398 | 0 | 31 | 2,635 | 85.00 |

Interest Rate $\quad 5.0 \%$
${ }^{a}$ Not applied to land because land is not a depreciable asset.
${ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ Interest Cost is calculated as: (Total Purchase Price + Salvage Value)/2 x Interest Rate. For land, the calculation is: Total Purchase Price x Interest Rate, because there is no salvage value for land.
${ }^{c}$ The irrigation system, netting for sunburn protection, mainline and pump, pond, trellis system and wind machine are used for the direct production of the fruit. Hence, their respective interest costs are divided by the production area ( 31 acres) to get the interest cost per acre.
${ }^{d}$ Total area of the farm operation is 300 acres and the machinery, equipment, and building are used in the entire, diverse cultivar farm. Thus, the corresponding interest costs are divided by the total area ( 300 acres) to derive the interest cost per acre.
${ }^{\text {e }}$ See the Excel Workbook (Appendix 3) for a detailed calculation of the salvage value of the machinery, equipment, and building.
Table 8. Annual depreciation costs per acre for a 31-acre Granny Smith block (\$/acre).

|  | Total Purchase <br> Price (\$) | Number <br> of Acres | Total Value <br> per Acre $\mathbf{( \$ )}$ | Years of <br> Useful Life | Depreciation Cost <br> per Acre $(\$ / \mathbf{y r})^{\mathrm{a}}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Irrigation System | 130,200 | 31 | $4,200.00$ | 30 | 140.00 |
| Sunburn Protection—Netting | 248,000 | 31 | $8,000.00$ | 20 | 400.00 |
| Mainline \& Pump | 27,900 | 31 | 900.00 | 30 | 30.00 |
| Pond | 74,400 | 31 | $2,400.00$ | 50 | 48.00 |
| Trellis | 178,250 | 31 | $5,750.00$ | 20 | 287.50 |
| Wind Machine | 105,398 | 31 | $3,399.92$ | 30 | 113.33 |
| Machinery, Equipment \& |  |  |  | 261.92 |  |
| Building ${ }^{\text {b }}$ |  |  |  |  |  |

${ }^{\text {a }}$ The depreciation cost is calculated as straight-line depreciation: (Total Purchase Price - Salvage Value)/Years of Use.
${ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ See Excel Workbook (Appendix 3) for calculation of the depreciation cost of the machinery, equipment, and building.

A further analysis of break-even returns is presented in Table 4. This analysis shows that the first break-even return is $\$ 471.29$ per 875 lb bin ( $\$ 26.93$ per 40 lb box). This is the minimum return for the owner-operator to cover the operation's variable costs. Returns lower than this figure suggest that it is more profitable not to operate (shutdown price) to produce Granny Smith apples. The second break-even return is at $\$ 480.78$ per 875 lb bin ( $\$ 27.47$ per 40 lb box), needed to cover the total cash costs (the equivalent to total variable costs plus land and property taxes, insurance cost, and miscellaneous supplies). This second break-even return is needed for the operation to be financially viable in the short run. The third break-even return is at $\$ 499.61 / 875 \mathrm{lb}$ bin ( $\$ 28.55 / 40 \mathrm{lb}$ box), needed for owneroperators to cover the cash costs plus depreciation of machinery and buildings. This third break-even return is needed for the operation to be financially viable in the long run. The fourth
break-even return is at $\$ 621.29 / 875 \mathrm{lb}$ bin ( $\$ 35.5 / 40 \mathrm{lb}$ box). If this return is realized, the owner-operator would recover all out-of-pocket expenses (cash costs); plus realize a competitive return on equity capital invested in land, trees, machinery, equipment, and buildings. Failure to obtain this break-even return level means that the owner-operator will not receive a return on capital contributions equal to what could be earned in alternative uses.

Most of the budget values given in Table 2 are based on more comprehensive underlying cost data, which are shown in Tables 5 through 8. Table 5 presents the annual capital requirements for a 21-acre Granny Smith block. Table 6 specifies the machinery and building requirements for the 300-acre diverse cultivar orchard. Interest costs and depreciation are listed in Table 7 and Table 8, respectively. Interest costs
represent required return on investments. They can be actual interest payments on funds borrowed to finance farm operations and physical capital investments, an opportunity cost (a return that would have been received if the investment had been in an alternative activity), or a combination of the two. All interest and amortization costs assume a $5 \%$ interest rate- $5 \%$ is the median of the range of the average annual effective interest rate on nonreal estate bank loans made to farmers from 2014 to 2018 (Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City 2019). The amortized establishment costs assume a total productive life of 15 years, which includes five years of establishment and ten years of full production. The amortized establishment costs must be recaptured during the full production years in order for an enterprise to be profitable. Depreciation costs are annual, noncash expenses that are calculated over the asset's useful life. These expenses represent the loss in an asset's value due to use, age, and obsolescence.

The key results of this enterprise budget are formed by production-related assumptions established for the study. Production costs and returns for individual owner-operators may differ; thus, the results cannot be generalized to represent the population of apple operations in Washington State. An interactive Excel Workbook, described below, is provided to enable individual owner-operators to estimate their returns based on the costs of their production.

## Excel Workbook

An Excel spreadsheet version of this enterprise budget (Table 2) as well as associated data underlying the per-acre cost calculations (Tables 5 through 8 and Appendices 1 through 5 for
establishment costs, full production costs, calculation of salvage value and depreciation costs, amortization calculator, and production-related data) are available at the WSU School of Economic Sciences Extension website.

Owner-operators can modify select values and thus use the Excel Workbook to evaluate their own production costs and returns.

## Acknowledgements

The authors acknowledge the information provided by a group of anonymous Granny Smith orchard and packinghouse ownersoperators, pesticide consultants, nursery representatives, financial institutions representatives, and WSU Extension educators. The authors also acknowledge the Washington Apple Commission for generously providing authorization to reproduce their website's apple pictures in this study.

## References

Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. 2019. Agricultural Finance Databook, Table A.5. Average Effective Interest Rate on Non-Real Estate Bank Loans Made to Farmers.

USDA NASS (U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service). 2017. Washington Tree Fruit Acreage Report 2017. USDA NASS Washington Field Office, Olympia, WA.

WSTFA (Washington State Tree Fruit Association). 2020. Annual Crop Summary: 2018-2019 Production and Marketing Season.

## By

R. Karina Gallardo, Professor and Extension Specialist, School of Economic Sciences, Co-Director IMPACT Center, Puyallup Research and Extension Center, Center for Precision and Automated Agricultural Systems, Washington State University Suzette Galinato, Assistant Director IMPACT Center, Washington State University School of Economic Sciences

TB74E

## WASHINGTON STATE SNO UNIVERSITY <br> EXTENSION

## Copyright © Washington State University

WSU Extension publications contain material written and produced for public distribution. Alternate formats of our educational materials are available upon request for persons with disabilities. Please contact Washington State University Extension for more information.

Issued by Washington State University Extension and the US Department of Agriculture in furtherance of the Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914. Extension programs and policies are consistent with federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, sex, religion, age, color, creed, and national or ethnic origin; physical, mental, or sensory disability; marital status or sexual orientation; and status as a Vietnam-era or disabled veteran. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension office. Trade names have been used to simplify information; no endorsement is intended. Published November 2020.


[^0]:    ${ }^{a}$ The full production year is representative of all the remaining years the orchard is in full production (Year 6 to Year 20).
    ${ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ Estimated net production considers an average pack-out of $80 \%$; or 17.5 box/bin.
    ${ }^{\mathrm{c}}$ These prices reflect the return before any expenses are subtracted. Bin size is 875 lb .

[^1]:    Notes: Machinery, equipment, and building requirements are utilized in growing diverse crops in the 300-acre farm, which include Granny Smith apples. The costs of fixed capital are allocated on the entire farm operation.
    ${ }^{\text {a }}$ Purchase price corresponds to new machinery, equipment, or building.
    ${ }^{\text {b }}$ Includes manager office, restroom, pesticide handling area and storage, dry storage, area for equipment cover, and shop bay for equipment work or repair.

