

Title The economic costs and returns of establishing and producing high-density pears in hood river, Oregon, USA

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Abstract

The average winter pear production in the Hood River Valley is about 41t/ha. Many pear trees in the Hood River Valley are over 50-years old. These blocks produce less than the County average and growers are faced with the dilemma of either leaving these blocks in production or renewing with new pear plantings. In a recent Oregon State University study, the variable cash costs to establish a hectare of pears is US\$26,401 and \$61,624/ha when all costs of production are included. With the assumptions in this study, however, this orchard will not generate sufficient gross incomes to cover all economic costs for a 25-year investment period. Despite the high costs of establishing high-density pear blocks growers remain interested in pear scion and rootstocks that can generate profits to keep them competitive in a global market.