

Increasing Farm Sustainability and Local Food Security through Grafted Tomatoes

Category	Item	Total	
These costs do not include the cost of any land, the cost of any needed repairs, or the cost of the building in which to place the healing chambers			
Start up costs	mostly 2022 prices		
	Labor - site prep seed house	\$ 1,200.00	if not self done
	Seed house structural package 12' x 24'	\$ 4,950.00	Seedhouse was bought from, delivered by,
	seed house equipment package	\$ 4,950.00	and installed by Gardener Farm Company, 417 366-2252
	delivery of seed house	\$ 800.00	if not self done
	installation - seed house	\$ 4,600.00	if not self done
	heater & installation - seed house	\$ 1,297.52	The heater was purchased used
	electrical - seed house	\$ 831.47	
	water/hydrant in seed house	\$ 1,503.05	
	propagation irrigation in seed house	\$ 739.29	
	seed house healing chamber	\$ 543.25	
	LED Rack kit - garage	\$ 199.99	
	scale	\$ 221.02	
	harvest totes	\$ 148.67	
	brix acidity meter	\$ 109.99	
	backpack sprayer	\$ 195.49	
	temp stick remote	\$ 149.00	
	dirt work & gravel for erosion control	\$ 380.00	
	pruning shears & holster	\$ 82.50	
	grow lights	\$ 133.42	
	soil mixer - to reduce soil costs	\$ 384.00	
	grafting knife	\$ 71.33	
	InkBird (non-wifi)	\$ 50.00	
Total		\$ 23,539.99	\$7,847.00 prorated by 3 years

Supplies	-	-	-	Annual costs
	seed starting flats/soil/fertilizer		\$ 817.18	
	propane - seed house		\$ 3,685.50	
	healing clips		\$ 132.52	
	scion & rootstock seeds		\$ 2,983.11	
	pest control		\$ 549.19	
		total	\$ 8,167.50	\$2,722.50
	plant license		\$50	Annual cost
	Rough estimate of labor	130 hours	\$17 per hour	\$ 2,210.00 Annual cost
	Annual total assuming sales in spring only			\$4,982.50
Minimum target sales	2,500 spring plants at \$6 each			\$15,000.00

This project found that that there is not adequate demand for fall grafted tomatoes even if an on-farm business had enough time during the summer growing season to pursue it. It also found that few farmers in southwest Missouri were likely to buy spring grafted tomatoes at \$6 per plant which is the minimum deemed needed for a successful on-farm grafting business.