



IN A NUTSHELL

Predictions and Trends for the California Almond Market

September 2010

Market Update:

Almond prices are headed up quickly as California sellers refuse to participate. Recent prices paid to our growers are:

Nonpareil 23/25	\$2.10
Monterey	\$1.77
Others	\$1.66

Buyers are eager for near term positions to cover their holiday demand. Prices for almonds shipping in 2011 are trading at a 5-10 cent discount to nearby positions. Nonpareil quality is excellent and kernel size HUGE!!

Grower's Corner: by Frank Roque

Grower Delivery Payment

We are happy to announce our delivery payment for the 2010 crop seasonal pool. It is as follows:

Nonpareil	\$.55
All Others	\$.30

Harvest

We are about one third of the way through what I consider one of the strangest harvests we have seen in a long time. I have never had to hurry up and wait this much in my life for almonds to come in. Nonpareil harvest is just about complete with mixed yield results. Kern County, frost damaged orchards and young trees all seem to be up in yield but after that, we are seeing very mixed results. In my opinion we are going to have a difficult time meeting the NASS crop forecast on the Nonpareils. I do not know enough about the other varieties to comment on them yet.

We are interested in hearing yield information. Please call or email us when you get a chance.

Farming News: by Barry Watts

Managing Rain During Harvest

This year has been a strange weather year and we're not done with it yet! Just a few days ago our friends north of Sacramento got some unwanted rain showers. What an ominous sign so early. Nobody wants to deal with rain during harvest but it's important to have a plan in case it happens.

As we start harvesting some of the later varieties it is important to check the weather forecast prior to shaking. If a significant storm is forecasted it is usually better to leave the almonds on the tree instead of shaking them. The almonds will receive much more airflow in the tree than on the ground. Later in the year when almonds get wet they need wind, not sunlight, to dry out.

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“ALMOND MARKETING NONPAREIL”

If the almonds are on the ground but not yet windrowed, it is important to get them out from under the tree and into the center to allow maximum exposure to the air. It's important not to stack them up, but rather spread them out so that you have a single layer. This may be tricky depending on your equipment and orchard setup. It may also require multiple passes to turn the almonds as they dry.

Windrowed almonds that get wet may need to be conditioned or run through the harvester and dropped on the ground. This process helps remove leaves and dirt so that the almonds dry quicker. When dropping nuts back on the ground, it is important to remember that stacked almonds don't dry well; so the wider the windrow, the better.

Rain during harvest can cause lower yields, quality reductions, and if the almonds are too wet, extra drying expenses.