



IN A NUTSHELL

Predictions and Trends for the California Almond Market February 2008

Market Update:

Following the ABC report of February 7, the almond market traded up for a few days then stalled as the weather market created by bloom began to develop. That isn't to say bloom started but just the weather market that trades around it. 2007 crop shipments through January 31 have been stellar. January, like each of the previous five months of 2007 crop, set a single month record. Our trading partners are already talking up the February shipments.....

Differentials in values between sizes and varieties have been the big game with us this year. Last fall, we paid growers as little as \$1.55 for small Carmel almonds. On the same day a size 23/25 Carmel netted another farmer \$2.05 per pound. Today the differential has shrunk from \$.50 down to about \$.30 for the same almonds and the differential seems to want to close up further. 15-20 years ago there was only \$.05-\$.08 between small and large kernels and \$.05-\$.10 differential between Nonpareil and all other varieties. FUN FUN FUN if you like trading and merchandising. WEIRD!!!

Grower's Corner: by Frank Roque

2007 Crop Pool Nonpareil SIZE Program Schedule:

As predicted by NASS in their objective estimate last summer the overall kernel size was smaller than average. Everyone knows when that happens large almonds become very valuable. We are pleased to announce the highest size premiums that we have ever paid.

<u>Kernel size</u>	<u>Payment per lb.</u>
20/22	\$.28
22/25	\$.14
25/27	\$.00
27/30	-\$.14
Smaller than 30	-\$.28

Your premiums will be added to your February payments.

Save this date!
Grower Appreciation Trap Shoot
Isla Vista Farms
May 2, 2008

2007 Crop Estimate Contest Update:

2007 crop receipts YTD are 1,357,393,675. Typically by January 31st we are 99% received. However, I think that the receipts for January were more than most thought. The following growers are in the running for the money. If Darrell Vincent wins he, will be our first two-time winner and it would be back-to-back wins for him.

Paul & Henry Mesple Farms	1,355,500,000
Frank Zonneveld	1,368,500,000
Kelley Ivancovich	1,375,800,000
Sarabian Farms	1,384,244,720
Darrell Vincent	1,385,500,000
Gavino Rodriguez (Rodriguez Farm)	1,395,206,000

2008 Crop Bloom:

The bloom seems to be on the late side this year. We are very interested in the progression of your bloom. Please keep us updated.

Farming News: by Barry Watts

Bloom Time

We are starting to see some bloom in the early varieties. For most of us, bloom is right around the corner. During bloom time we worry about many issues: pollination and disease being the two biggest. Once bloom has started we can do very little about pollination, but we can do many things to help control disease.

Two diseases that affect almonds in all growing regions of the state are Brown Rot Blossom Blight and Shot Hole. Both are fungi; that means they need specific environmental conditions to get established in your orchard. Brown Rot and Shot Hole spores survive on the tree in infected buds, spurs, twigs and leaves. Brown Rot can start to develop at 50° but really loves temperatures in the mid-70s. Shot Hole has about the same temperature requirements. In addition to the proper temperature, both diseases need some degree of “Free Moisture”. This may be fog, rain, irrigation (mainly impact sprinklers) or heavy dews. An increase in temperature and free moisture levels will mean an increase in the development of these diseases.

Brown Rot Blossom Blight infects blossoms, leaves, and spurs. The first symptom is when young blossom spurs and associated leaves begin collapsing to form shoot blight. Gum may exude at the base of the infected flowers. In high humidity, spore masses will form on diseased flower and twig parts.

Shot Hole will infect leaves and fruit primarily, but flower and twig infections may also occur. Leaf lesions begin as tiny reddish specks that enlarge into spots having tan centers and purplish margins.

Consult with your Pest Control Advisor to formulate a plan of attack. Most fungicides that are available today protect healthy plant tissue rather than cure a disease infection. This means that you will want to have your fungicide on your tree before you see signs of disease infection. If frequent rains, fogs, or dews persist, you may need to apply multiple fungicide applications. Again, consult your P.C.A. for a recommendation.