



IN A NUTSHELL

Predictions and Trends for the California Almond Market

April 2011

Market Update:

Spectacular March shipments (up 21% over March 2010) have buyers and sellers perplexed. The market was in a downward trend as the 2011 crop developed into a size that is generally estimated to easily be our largest ever!!! Prices have stabilized following the publication of the March shipping numbers.

Recently there has been a lot of conversation in the grower community about price differentials between Monterey/Carmel vs. generic California varieties. All I know for sure is that the right differential is what it is.....25 years ago there was only a 5 cent differential between Nonpareil and California varieties. With that in mind, nothing surprises me.

Grower's Corner: by Frank Roque

2010 Crop Estimate Contest Winner

Congratulations to Jamie Swanson on winning the 2010 Crop Estimate Contest and the \$1,000 prize. His guess was 1,625,250,000 and the receipts on the March position report were 1,618,404,740.

For our 2011 Crop Estimate Contest the prize will be \$3,000 in celebration of this next crop being the 30th for Panoche Creek Packing! The form and instructions are below.

2011 Crop Estimate Contest

This year's rules follow:

1. The closest guess to the receipts of the 2011 crop, as shown on the March 2012 position report published by the Almond Board of California, will be the winner. The winner will be rewarded with a \$3,000 cash prize.
2. One entry per farm organization. Multiple entities or partners do not entitle you to multiple entries. In the event of a tie, the proceeds will be split. All guesses will be published in the May 2011 newsletter.
3. All entries must be received by May 1, 2011. Either e-mail to kristi@panochecreek.com or fax to 559-435-3481.

2011 Crop Estimate Contest Entry

GROWER NAME _____

CROP ESTIMATE _____

“ALMOND MARKETING NONPAREIL”

Cash Flow Planning / Seasonal Pool Payment Update

Pool growers, as we mentioned in last month's newsletter, the pool payment will be mailed out beginning on April 29. Our next pool payment is planned for late June.

We are now in the process of renewing pool contracts for the 2011 Crop. We plan to close the pool June 15, 2011.

Dates to Remember

Almond Acreage Report - April 28, 2011

2011 Almond Forecast and Panoche Grower Appreciation Lunch - May 5, 2011

Farming News: by Barry Watts

What's Next?

Despite everything that has happened so far, the almond crop is really progressing nicely. The nuts are really starting to size and show themselves. The trees are drinking up some of the excess water and coming out of their lime-green state.

I have seen a couple of Leaf Footed Plant Bugs (LFPB) in the last week in Kern County. With this late season rain, we may be able to hold them in the hills and weeds long enough for our shells to harden off. This is the time of year when your PCA should be scouting for the LFPB.

I am seeing a lot of Brown Rot and Bacterial Blast damage in certain areas due to the wet bloom and post bloom weather. The Almond Doctor (www.thealmonddoctor.com) has a great article on his website on these two diseases and how to differentiate the symptoms.

Right before the last deluge of rain I was seeing spider mite populations beginning to build – particularly in West Fresno County and some parts of Kern County. Now I see a few here and there, but we all know they will be back sooner or later. Many practices must be considered when trying to prevent a mite problem. Here are some tips regarding mite prevention. Water stressed trees will almost always have mites on them. Avoid stressing trees whether it is from insufficient irrigation or uneven distribution within the orchard. Dust control - do cultural practices such as discing, mowing and landplaning early in the season while temperatures are mild. Oiling and watering roadways will reduce dust around the orchard. Maintain predator insects that will help control mites. This can be accomplished by choosing “soft” or selective chemicals for in-season sprays to prevent killing the natural predators within your orchard or by releasing additional mite predators. Chemical applications control mites very well if applied correctly. Systemic and residual chemicals usually have to be applied while the leaf tissue is tender (early season) and mite populations are not significant. Mites must be present to use a contact material (*consult your pest control advisor for a recommendation*). On both types of action it is important to get great coverage.