

PANOCHÉ CREEK
PACKING, INC.

IN A NUTSHELL

Predictions and Trends for the California Almond Market

February 2012

Market Update: by Ross Blackburn

WOW!!!!

Grower's Corner: by Frank Roque

March Pool Payment

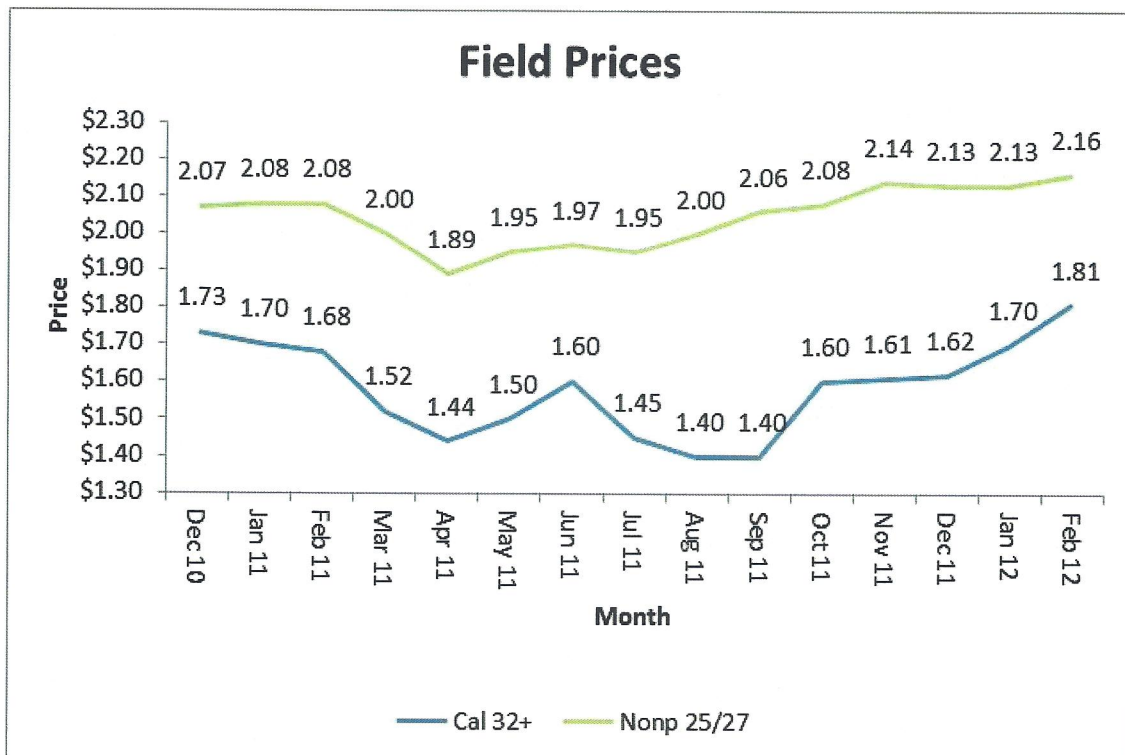
We are pleased to announce our March pool payment. The payment will bring the Nonpareil variety up to \$1.40/lb. and All Other varieties up to \$1.10/lb.

	<u>Payment</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Nonpareil	\$.30	\$1.40
All Others	\$.30	\$1.10

We will start sending payments March 9, 2012. Please call me if you have any questions.

Pricing Review

Every year at this time, we field questions on how our seasonal pool will final. Let's remember where prices have been these past 14 months because it is very easy to forget. Where we go from here, no one knows. Bloom has started in some orchards. Most of us agree that last year's Nonpareil crop will be difficult to duplicate. The question is how big can the 2012 crop be?



Farming News: by Barry Watts

The Beginning of a New Crop... I am starting to see some bloom in the early varieties. For most of us, bloom is just around the corner and this means bloom sprays will be starting in a week or so.

Two diseases that affect almonds in all growing regions of the state are Brown Rot Blossom Blight and Shot Hole. Both are fungi which mean 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 70's. 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, or heavy dews. An increase in temperature and free moisture levels will result in an increase of disease.

Brown Rot infects blossoms, leaves, and spurs. The first symptom is when young blossom spurs and associated leaves begin collapsing to form shoot blight. Keep in mind that not all varieties are equally susceptible to Brown Rot: Wood Colony and Butte are very susceptible, Fritz, Monterey and Carmel are moderately susceptible, and Nonpareil is the least susceptible. 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.

Most fungicides on the market today protect healthy plant tissue rather than cure an infection. This means you will want to have your fungicide on the tree prior to signs of disease infections. Consult with your Pest Control Advisor for materials and timings of use.