



IN A NUTSHELL

Predictions and Trends for the California Almond Market

August 2012

Grower's Corner: by Frank Roque

2012 Crop Pool Delivery Payment

The pool delivery payment for the 2012 Crop Seasonal Pool will be as follows:

Nonpareil	\$.70
All Others	\$.50

Pool Payment Deferral Option

Pool growers should have received a letter from us recently regarding deferring pool income until after December 31, 2012. If you wish to defer any or all of your pool payments until January 7, 2013, please complete and return the Contract Addendum form that was enclosed with the letter. We are required to have this form returned to us prior to your delivering almonds to us if you wish to defer any proceeds.

If you have any questions regarding the form or deferral, please call me.

Inshell Almonds

As the demand for inshell grows faster than the demand for meats, we will again be looking for additional inshell. The varieties we will focus on will be Nonpareil, Sonora, Carmel, Wood Colony, Monterey, and Butte. There will be a \$.06 premium guaranteed for all varieties and a possibility of even more.

It looks like the demand for inshell is here to stay. We will be happy to answer any questions you have about inshell. It can be a bit intimidating and confusing at first, but once there is a familiarity with it, the premium more than makes up for the hassle.

Farming News: by Barry Watts

Post-Harvest Irrigation and Fertility

The importance of post-harvest irrigation and fertilization can't be overstated. Especially given that most of us are deficit irrigating and using less nitrogen to prevent Hull Rot. These cultural practices to prevent Hull Rot are essential, no doubt, but they are definitely leaving our soil profiles dryer than optimal. This is particularly true during the month of September when our trees are going through bud differentiation (when the tree determines fruit buds for next year's crop).

Irrigation – Trees should be irrigated as soon as possible after the nuts are harvested to prevent premature leaf drop. Leaves provide nutrition to the fruit buds during and after bud differentiation. Proper irrigation between the harvest of varieties is critical, particularly with Nonpareil and late varieties. Between the end of harvest and the trees losing their leaves in November, they will use 7-10 inches of water.

Fertilizer – Post-harvest foliar sprays are a great way to get some key nutrients into the developing buds, via the leaves. If possible, an application directly after the last variety is harvested is ideal. You want as much leaf surface as possible for uptake of the foliar nutrients. Nitrogen (lo-biuret urea), Phosphorous, Zinc and Boron should be addressed at this time. It's important to note that post-harvest foliar sprays will not correct moderate to major nutrient deficiencies. Consult with your advisor on formulation and amount of each nutrient.

Post-harvest soil applied fertilizers are intended to feed the whole tree for the upcoming year. As root activity increases after harvest, it is important to satisfy the tree's demand for nutrition. A mid-July tissue sample will help determine what nutrients your orchard needs. You and your advisor should develop a fertilizer schedule that makes nutrients available when the tree needs them or can efficiently use them.