



ALMOND INDUSTRY

US LARGE PRODUCER

Internationally, the United States remains the largest producer of almonds, harvesting 78 percent of the world's crop, followed by the European Union. California is the largest producer in the United States. (ABC)

<https://www.agmrc.org/commodities-products/nuts/almonds>



ALMOND HISTORY

Almond trees were brought to California from Spain by the Franciscan Padres in the mid-1700s. Successful planting inland followed a century later, and by the 1870s, research led to the development of several prominent almond varieties. By the turn of the 20th century, the industry was well-established in the Sacramento and San Joaquin areas of California's great Central Valley.

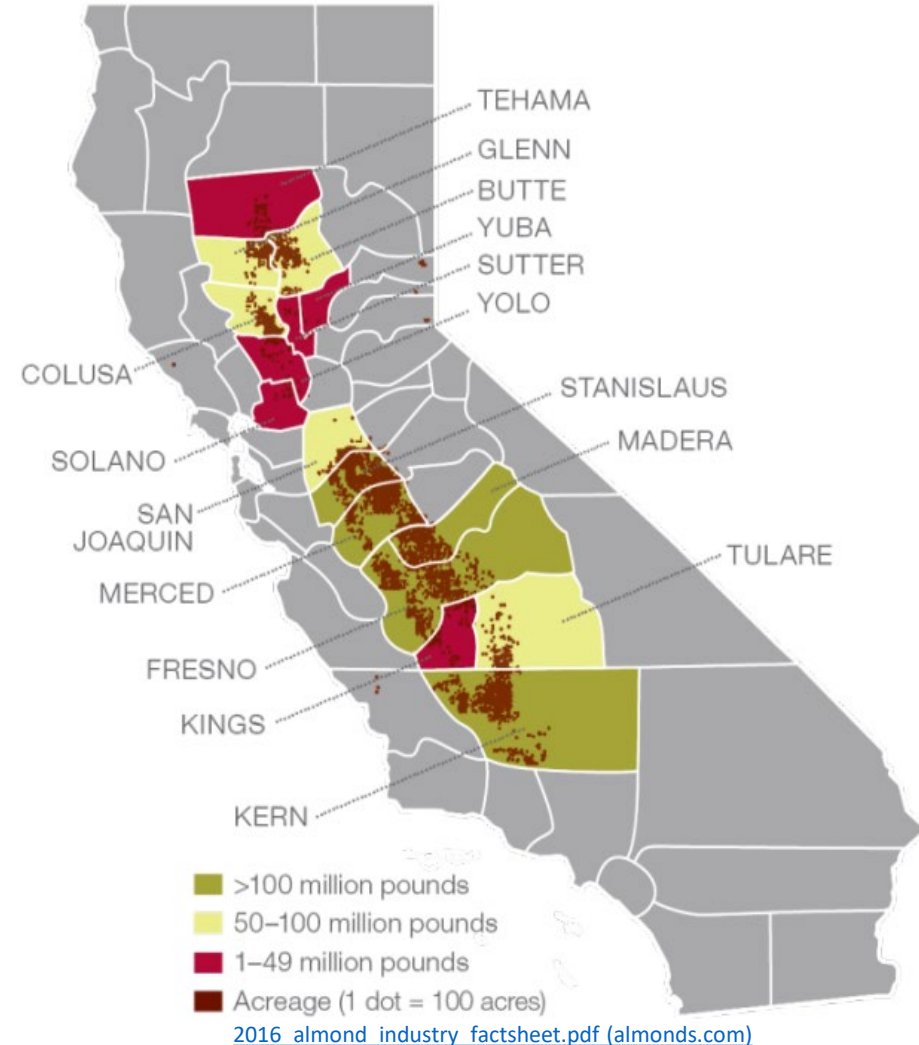
<https://www.waterfordnut.com/history.html>



STATE ALMOND PRODUCER

California is the only state that produces almonds commercially. The 2020 almond crop totaled 2.25 billion pounds, valued at \$5.5 billion. (NASS)

<https://www.agmrc.org/commodities-products/nuts/almonds>



ALMOND LIFECYCLE

Almond orchards typically produce their first crop three years after planting and continue to yield for up to 25 years.

<https://www.almonds.com/why-almonds/almond-lifecycle>



TYPES OF ALMONDS

California almond varieties are categorized into five broad classifications based on distinguishing characteristics such as size and shape. Approximately 90 percent of almond production in California falls into the following three major classifications: Nonpareil, California, and Mission.

<https://www.almonds.com/almond-industry/processors-and-suppliers/varieties-and-forms>



ALMOND HARVESTING

Almonds were originally harvested by hand, but this was extremely labor-intensive and time-consuming. In the early 1900s, mechanical harvesters were introduced, which improved efficiency and reduced tree damage. Today, most almond harvesting is still done mechanically.

<https://www.ptchronos.com/blog/evolution-almond-processing-and-sorting#:~:text=Sorting%20and%20packaging.%20Following%20the%20harvest%2C%20almonds,which%20typically%20requires%20a%20significant%20human%20workforce.>



ALMOND HARVESTING

There are three steps to harvest Almonds

- **Shaking:** When almonds are ready to be harvested, Shaking machines are used to shake each individual tree.
- **Sweeping:** Once the almonds have reached the desired moisture content, a sweeper machine goes into the field to sweep the nuts into a windrow.

<https://www.theproducenerd.com/2018/12/almond-harvesting/>



ALMOND HARVESTING

Harvesting: A machine is used to harvest almonds by collecting the nuts swept into windrows and discarding additional soil and debris. Once the trailers at the back of the harvesting machines have filled up, a self-propelled shuttle links up with it, and the harvested nuts are offloaded into the self-propelled shuttles and then taken to stockpiles.



HARVEST SEASON

The almond harvest season lasts approximately 60 days, and it takes around 120 days to hull and shell all the nuts that are harvested.

<https://www.theproducenerd.com/2018/12/almond-harvesting/>



ALMOND'S PROCESS

The harvested almonds are transported to a processing plant for sorting and cleaning before packaging, a process that typically requires a significant human workforce.



ALMOND PROCESS

The final step of almond processing in most operations today is, quite simply, a conveyor belt with dozens of workers hunched over on each side staring at thousands of almonds, picking out twigs, rocks, bug-infested almonds, and broken nuts.

<https://www.theproducenerd.com/2018/12/almond-processing/>



ALMOND PROCESS

Packing – The final product is packed into bulk bins or 50-pound bags (where the bags are pulled tight and sewed up on the line) that are palletized and shrink-wrapped for shipment

<https://www.theproducenerd.com/2018/12/almond-processing/>



QUALIFYING ACTIVITIES

- **Boxing**
- **Preparing fields**
- **Harvesting**
- **Irrigating**
- **Loading/unloading**
- **Sorting**
- **Cleaning**
- **Grafting**
- **Hauling**
- **Laying plastic**
- **Packing**
- **Weeding**



ALMONDS ASSOCIATIONS

Almond Board of California (ABC)

<https://www.almonds.com/about-us/contact-us>

Almond Alliance

<https://almondalliance.org/contact-us/>

Western Agricultural Processors Association (WAPA)

<https://agprocessors.org/contact>

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<https://agprocessors.org/contact>

Central California Almond Growers Association

<https://ccaga.com/contact/>

