

ALMONDS IN YUBA-SUTTER COUNTIES

<u>1968 Acreage</u>	<u>Bearing</u>	<u>Non Bearing</u>	<u>Total</u>
Yuba County -----	1,290	550	1,840
Sutter County -----	5,900	600	6,500
California -----	123,790	81,460	205,250

Outlook:

California produces all the commercial almonds grown in the United States. Since 1960, the bearing acreage has increased by 35 per cent as a result of heavy new plantings of almonds, particularly in the San Joaquin Valley. Non bearing acreage has increased from 24,000 in 1960 by 3.5 times to reach an unprecedented high acreage of non bearing trees for the state. With this condition, the production potential for the state will continue to increase for several years in the future. Growers with increased technology and know-how are raising more nuts per acre than ever before, which adds to the crop which must be marketed.

Approximately 20 - 25 per cent of the crop has been exported in recent years. This is an increase from the 1950 period. With increased production from plantings already in the ground, successful marketing of the crop in the future will be a real challenge. Almonds are included under a Federal Marketing Program.

Growing Conditions:

Almonds are occasionally planted on soils which are considered too shallow or poorly drained for peach growing. This is usually a mistake because almond trees require deep well-drained soils for proper tree growth and heavy production. To be competitive today, high yields per acre are necessary. Trees which receive good care remain productive until the age of 30 to 35. Sprinkler irrigation has advantages in almond culture. Sod culture or non tillage works well in conjunction with this type of irrigation. Harvesting has recently been speeded up by shaking rather than knocking. Rakes with blowers have reduced or eliminated hand sweeping. Improvements in pick-up machines and a modern cooperative huller has helped to further accelerate harvest for members. Mechanical harvest advances is one factor in escalating planting of almonds. Almonds will produce some nuts in the fourth year and will normally meet cash expenses in the fifth year.

Sample Cost Details:

Wages used in these costs of \$2.25 per hour for skilled labor and \$1.90 for unskilled include workmen's compensation, social security and other expenses incidental to labor. These costs shown are samples. They are not intended to show average expenses for growing almonds in the county, but indicate typical costs for successful growers.

Operating Calendar:

Prune ----- November, December, January
 Irrigate ----- May to September
 Spray or dust ----- January, April, June
 Harvest ----- August, September

Agricultural Extension Service
 Yuba-Sutter Counties
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