

Agricultural Extension Service
University of California
Postoffice Bldg., Colusa

ALMOND PRODUCTION IN COLUSA COUNTY

The acreage planted to almonds has remained fairly constant over the past five years. Most of the acreage is on rolling land, S.W., of Arbuckle, with scattering orchards in the College City area and along the Sacramento River north of Colusa.

Economic size to provide a satisfactory standard of living is considered to be about 100 acres in the foothill area. On the deep alluvial soils and where frost injury is not a hazard, yields are higher and 35 to 40 acres would be sufficient.

The cost of developing an orchard in the foothill area would be about \$600 per acre with land at \$100, irrigation system \$100, planting and growing trees \$400. Producing orchards are selling for \$600-\$800 per acre.

Varieties:

Almonds require cross-pollination, so a mixture of varieties must be planted. A general recommendation is to plant about 50% of the orchard to Nonpariel and the rest to NePlus and Peerless. Normal tree spacing is 30'x30'.

DATA ON ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRICE

<u>Colusa County</u>		<u>California</u>			
Acres	Production (tons dry)	Price	Acres	Production (tons dry)	
1948	8831	3,375	\$450	94,600	36,421
1949	8905	3,200	325	94,778	38,859
1950	9207	4,240	555	91,296	35,388
1951	9207	3,240	500	90,874	42,711
1952	9491	2,660	500	91,993	35,417

SAMPLE COSTS TO PRODUCE ALMONDS IN COLUSA COUNTY

Based on 100 acres

Yield - 800 pounds

Labor \$1.00-\$1.25 per hour

Operation, Crew and Equipment	Hours per Acre	Cash Cost per Acre						Total Cash Cost	Int. & Deprec. on Equip.	Total Cost per Acre
		Labor	Tractor and Equip.	Contract	Materials		Value			
					Kind	Amount				
Cultural Costs										
Prune	10.0	10.00					10.00	.25	10.25	
Brush Disposal: 2 men, truck	1.0	2.00	.60				2.60	.95	3.55	
Plant cover crop: man, tract, broadcaster	.2	.20	.25		Seed	4.00	4.45	.25	4.70	
Spray: 2 times, 2 men, tract., sprayer	1.0	2.50	2.35		Spray 800 Gal	24.00	28.85	5.40	37.65	
Haul water: man, truck	1.0	1.25	1.20				2.45	.95		
Disk: 6 times: man, tract., disk	3.0	3.75	4.25				8.00	4.50	12.50	
Fertilize: man, tract., broadcaster	.2	.25	.25		Nitrogen 60#	9.00	9.50	.25	9.75	
Ridge: man, tract., ridger	.5	.60	.90				1.50	1.05	2.55	
Irrigate: 2 times	7.7	7.70	4.00		Power 1 ac'	12.00	23.70	9.15	32.85	
Total cultural		28.25	13.80			49.00	91.05	22.75	113.80	
Harvest Costs										
Float: man, tract., float	.5	.60	.60				1.20	.25	1.45	
Knock: labor contract, horse \$6.50	25.0	25.00	2.00	6.50	Sacks	.60	34.10	3.20	37.30	
Haul to huller: man, truck	1.5	1.90	1.80				3.70	1.40	5.10	
Full and dry: man, 4 women	2.5	13.10	1.75				14.85	6.80	21.65	
Haul: \$2.00 ton				.80			.80		.80	
Total harvest cost		40.60	6.15			.60	54.65	11.65	65.30	
Total		68.85	19.95	7.30		49.60	145.70	34.40	180.10	

Miscellaneous Costs

Taxes	3.00		
Other Cash	10.00		
Depreciation on trees \$400 @ 25 years		16.00	
Interest-trees \$200 @ 5%		10.00	
Interest-land \$100 @ 5%		5.00	
Total Miscellaneous	13.00	31.00	44.00
Total cost per acre	158.70	65.40	224.10
Cost per cwt.			28.00

INVESTMENT REQUIRED FOR 100 ACRE ALMOND ORCHARD

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Approximate Cost New</u>
Tractor-40 H.P.	\$7000
Truck-1½ ton	3000
Disk-10'	980
Sprayer-400 gal. speed	4000
Float	50
Broadcaster	50
Ridger	450
Pruning equipment	100
Harvest equipment:	
Sled-4	700
Sheets-8	368
Shovels-mallets, poles	30
Huller, dryer and shed	8500
Miscellaneous	272
Total equipment.....	\$25500
Buildings, not including dwelling	5000
Trees-100 acres @ \$400	40000
Irrigation System-Well, pump, pipe	10000
Land-100 acres @ \$100	10000
Total Investment	\$90500

HARVESTING WITH PICK-UP MACHINE

Cost of Machine \$3500	
Annual Depreciation	\$350.00
Interest	87.50
Total orchard.....	\$437.50
Per Acre	4.38
Operating cost of picker	
Labor-4 hours @ \$1.00	4.00
Fuel, repairs, etc.	3.00
Cost of picker.....	\$11.38
Knocking labor	20.00
Total harvest.....	\$31.38