



2008 California Walnut Objective Measurement Report

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

California Field Office · P.O. Box 1258 · Sacramento, CA 95812 · (916) 498-5161 · (916) 498-5186 Fax · www.nass.usda.gov/ca

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WALNUT PRODUCTION FORECAST UP

The 2008 California walnut production is forecast at 375,000 tons, up 15 percent from 2007's production of 325,000 tons. This forecast is based on the 2008 Walnut Objective Measurement (O.M.) Survey, which was officially conducted August 1 through August 25, 2008. There were a few samples completed before August 1 for training and scheduling purposes.

The 2008 Walnut O.M. Survey utilized a total of 689 blocks with two sample trees per block. Survey data indicated an average nut set of 1,416 per tree, up 4 percent from 2007's average of 1,357. The Hartley nut set was down 14 percent; Chandler was up 33 percent; Serr was down 20 percent from 2007. Percent of sound kernels in-shell was 98.0 percent Statewide. In-shell weight per nut was 22.2 grams, while the average in-shell suture measurement was 32.6 millimeters. The in-shell cross-width measurement was 32.9 and the average length in-shell was 39.3 millimeters.

Estimated nut sets, sizing measurements, average number of trees per acre, and estimated bearing acreage were used in the statistical models.

SURVEY HISTORY

The Walnut O.M. Survey began in 1958 to fulfill industry needs for an accurate walnut production forecast prior to harvest. The original sample was chosen proportionally to county and variety of bearing acreage. With each succeeding year, additions and deletions have been made in the sample to adjust for acreage removed, new bearing acreage, and operations that choose not to participate in the survey.

SAMPLING PROCEDURES

Once a block is randomly selected and permission is granted by the operation for enumerators to enter the block, two trees are randomly selected. An accessible branch is chosen, which is 5-15 percent of the total cross-sectional area of the primary limbs and reachable with a twelve-foot ladder. Measurements are made on the trunk, each primary, and each split leading to and including the accessible branch. The sample tree and accessible branch are marked by a single tag.

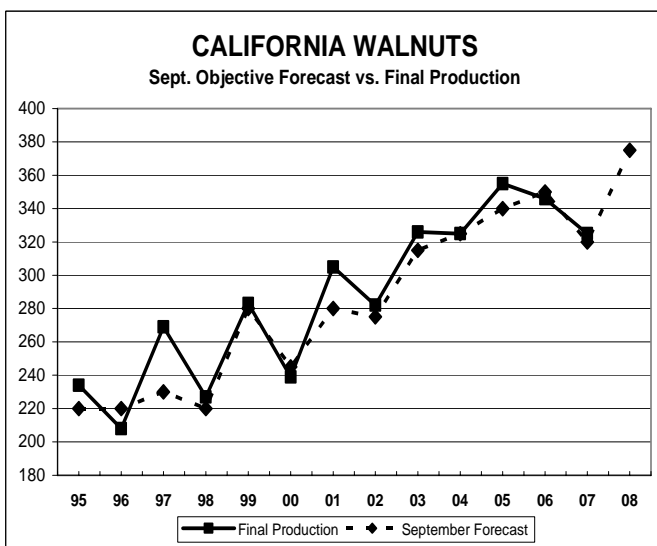
On the accessible branch, every first of five nuts is picked for use in size and grade determinations. If available, at least ten nuts are harvested from the accessible branch for this purpose.

The following measurements are made on nuts selected for sizing:

1. Weight of nut including hull
2. Width of shell at suture
3. Width of shell 90 degrees to suture line (cross-suture)
4. Length of shell
5. Kernel grade
6. Weight of nut in-shell

DATA RELIABILITY

The 80 percent confidence interval is from 338,000 tons to 412,000 tons. This means there is an 80 percent chance the 2008 production will fall within this range.



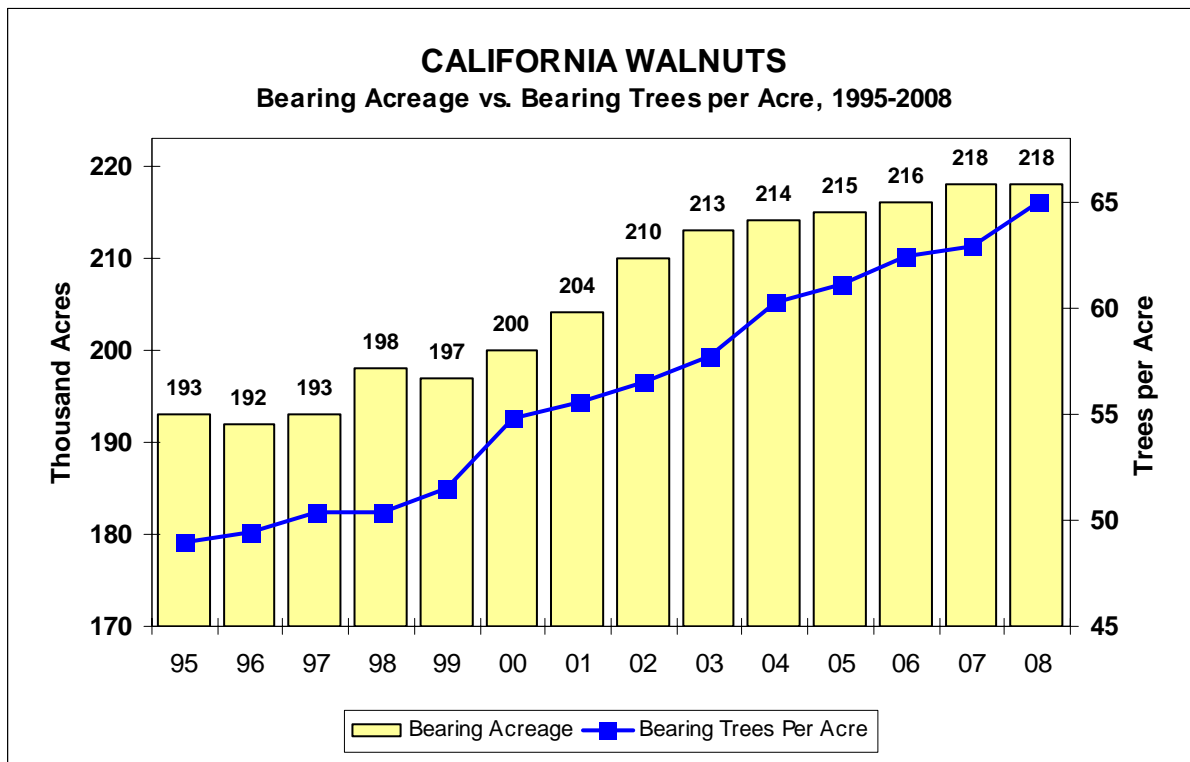
California English Walnut Acreage, Production, Price And Value In-Shell

Year	Bearing Acres	Trees Per Acre	Per Bearing Acre	Total Production	Price Per Ton	Total Value
			Tons	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	
1988	177,000	43.8	1.18	209,000	922	192,698
1989	179,000	45.3	1.28	229,000	1,070	245,030
1990	181,000	45.7	1.25	227,000	1,040	236,080
1991	181,000	46.8	1.43	259,000	1,060	274,540
1992	178,000	47.5	1.14	203,000	1,410	286,230
1993	185,000	47.9	1.41	260,000	1,390	361,400
1994	189,000	48.7	1.23	232,000	1,030	238,960
1995	193,000	49.0	1.21	234,000	1,400	327,600
1996	192,000	49.4	1.08	208,000	1,580	328,640
1997	193,000	50.4	1.39	269,000	1,430	384,670
1998	198,000	50.4	1.15	227,000	1,050	238,350
1999	197,000	51.5	1.44	283,000	886	250,738
2000	200,000	54.8	1.20	239,000	1,240	296,360
2001	204,000	55.6	1.50	305,000	1,120	341,600
2002	210,000	56.5	1.34	282,000	1,170	329,940
2003	213,000	57.7	1.53	326,000	1,160	378,160
2004	214,000	60.3	1.52	325,000	1,390	451,750
2005	215,000	61.1	1.65	355,000	1,570	539,600
2006	216,000	62.4	1.60	346,000	1,630	563,980
2007 a/	218,000	62.9	1.49	325,000	2,320	754,000
2008 b/ c/	218,000	65.0	1.72	375,000	---	---

a/ Price Per Ton and Total Value are July 2008 preliminary data.

b/ Bearing years include plantings of the following: Chandler, Chico, Howard, Tulare (2004 & Earlier); 50-55, 59-124, 4946, Amigo, Ashley, Bardoni, Cisco, Earhorn, Grove, Gustine, Honeycutt, Houston, Jensen, Lompoc, Marchetti, Nuggett, Payne, Pedro, Serr, Sunland, Tehama, Trinta, UCD 67-13, Vina, Westside (2003 and Earlier); Franquette, Franquette Scharsch, Mayette, Placentia, Poe, Willsons/Willsons Wonder, Woodland (2001 & Earlier); all other varieties not specified (2002 & Earlier).

c/ Price Per Ton and Total Value preliminary data will be released July 2009.



Walnut Objective Measurement Survey Date, By District

Measurement	Year	Coast 1/	Sacramento Valley 2/	San Joaquin Valley 3/	State 4/
In-Shell Weight (gm)	1997	20.9	23.7	22.2	22.9
	1998	21.2	22.4	20.3	21.4
	1999	21.0	24.9	19.5	23.0
	2000	19.7	22.4	19.7	21.2
	2001	21.9	23.7	18.1	21.5
	2002	19.1	22.9	20.5	22.0
	2003	23.0	24.6	19.2	22.4
	2004	22.0	24.1	19.7	22.5
	2005	23.1	21.3	18.1	20.0
	2006	19.8	24.1	21.0	22.7
In-Shell Width (mm)	1997	32.3	33.0	31.1	32.3
	1998	31.4	32.2	31.5	31.9
	1999	31.2	32.6	31.6	32.2
	2000	31.5	32.4	32.1	32.2
	2001	31.7	31.8	31.6	31.7
	2002	31.4	32.2	32.7	32.4
	2003	32.1	32.8	32.0	32.5
	2004	31.4	32.5	32.7	32.6
	2005	32.9	31.4	32.1	31.7
	2006	29.5	30.3	32.9	31.4
In-Shell Cross-Width (mm)	1997	32.3	33.2	31.9	32.6
	1998	31.2	32.1	31.5	31.8
	1999	31.6	33.3	31.8	32.7
	2000	31.3	33.0	32.6	32.8
	2001	31.1	31.7	31.5	31.6
	2002	31.0	32.6	33.1	32.7
	2003	31.7	32.7	32.0	32.4
	2004	31.5	32.2	33.1	32.5
	2005	32.2	31.3	32.0	31.6
	2006	32.3	34.0	33.2	33.6
In-Shell Length (mm)	1997	38.2	39.4	37.6	38.6
	1998	39.1	40.0	39.0	39.5
	1999	38.3	39.7	38.9	39.4
	2000	37.4	38.2	38.4	38.2
	2001	38.6	38.5	37.9	38.3
	2002	37.5	38.4	38.8	38.5
	2003	38.8	39.7	38.3	39.1
	2004	37.7	39.1	38.7	39.0
	2005	42.0	38.4	38.7	38.6
	2006	38.6	39.6	39.5	39.5
Kernel Grade - Percent Sound	1997	97.8	97.4	97.3	97.3
	1998	79.9	93.2	98.3	94.4
	1999	96.8	98.2	97.4	97.9
	2000	98.0	96.7	97.0	96.9
	2001	98.3	97.5	98.1	97.8
	2002	96.0	95.3	98.7	96.3
	2003	95.5	95.4	99.3	97.0
	2004	97.6	97.7	99.2	98.2
	2005	97.4	96.5	98.8	97.5
	2006	98.1	98.5	97.2	98.0
Nuts Set Per Tree	1997	1,128	2,233	1,439	1,753
	1998	1,070	1,654	1,253	1,407
	1999	1,355	2,180	1,250	1,709
	2000	1,195	1,812	1,204	1,483
	2001	937	2,020	1,478	1,719
	2002	1,254	1,982	1,142	1,572
	2003	640	1,846	1,429	1,599
	2004	924	1,943	1,168	1,526
	2005	818	1,854	1,372	1,575
	2006	1,316	1,660	1,267	1,458
2007	1,221	1,548	1,162	1,357	
2008	973	1,592	1,270	1,416	

1/ Coast includes: Contra Costa, Lake, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Clara, and Sonoma counties.

2/ Sacramento Valley includes: Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Sacramento, Solano, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba counties.

3/ San Joaquin Valley includes: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare counties.

4/ District and State averages are derived by weighting county averages by county bearing acreage figures.

Percentage Distribution of Walnut Shell Suture Size, By District and Variety

District and Variety	U.S. Standards Size Intervals 1/																													
	2004						2005						2006						2007 2/						2008					
	Mth	Jmb	Lge	Med	Bby	Oth	Mth	Jmb	Lge	Med	Bby	Oth	Mth	Jmb	Lge	Med	Bby	Oth	Mth	Jmb	Lge	Med	Bby	Oth	Mth	Jmb	Lge	Med	Bby	Oth
	----- Percent of Total 3/ -----																													
DISTRICTS:																														
Coast	0	50	12	20	16	1	1	71	15	9	4	0	0	30	15	18	26	11	9	30	17	24	20	0	0	49	18	17	15	0
Sacramento Vly.	2	62	15	11	10	1	1	47	19	15	12	3	0	38	11	16	28	5	1	50	16	17	15	1	0	68	15	11	5	0
San Joaquin Vly.	2	65	15	11	7	0	1	56	20	17	6	0	2	68	16	9	5	0	1	63	16	11	8	0	1	66	16	10	6	1
VARIETIES:																														
Ashley	1	56	16	12	16	1	1	47	17	17	16	1	0	46	19	15	18	2	5	31	16	23	21	3	0	60	18	15	7	1
Chandler	1	63	16	11	8	0	0	42	23	21	10	3	1	48	15	14	19	3	1	54	17	15	13	1	0	63	19	11	6	0
Eureka	1	47	30	10	12	0	0	29	37	21	11	1	1	56	34	4	5	0	0	48	28	9	16	0	0	34	40	19	7	0
Franquette	0	51	21	18	9	1	0	53	19	17	11	0	0	21	15	19	34	12	0	23	17	30	28	1	0	43	18	23	15	0
Hartley	1	69	14	9	6	1	1	64	14	9	7	2	0	52	10	14	20	4	1	63	14	13	9	0	0	83	9	4	3	1
Howard	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	55	19	15	10	0	0	58	21	15	6	0
Payne	1	67	13	10	8	0	1	51	19	19	8	1	0	72	16	5	7	1	0	60	19	12	8	1	1	73	14	8	4	0
Serr	2	77	10	6	5	0	2	60	16	11	11	0	2	69	11	8	10	1	1	69	11	10	8	1	0	73	11	9	5	1
Tehama	0	53	13	18	15	1	0	45	19	18	15	1	1	52	14	12	17	5	0	38	26	21	14	1	0	74	10	10	6	0
Tulare	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	8	76	7	6	3	0	7	82	5	4	2	0
Vina	0	39	18	18	22	2	4	32	27	21	12	1	0	39	18	18	20	4	0	32	21	21	23	2	1	44	24	19	12	0
Other	8	60	11	12	9	0	2	57	15	12	11	1	4	54	10	12	16	3	0	29	18	22	30	0	2	37	15	29	16	1
STATE	2	63	15	11	9	1	1	51	19	16	10	2	1	51	13	13	18	3	1	55	16	15	12	1	1	67	16	11	6	0
Number of Shells Measured	13,822						12,736						13,491						13,219						13,485					

1/ Sizes used are as follows: Mammoth -- Larger than 96/64" in diameter; Jumbo -- 80/64" to 96/64"; Large -- 76/64" to 80/64" for Eureka variety, 77/64" to 80/64" for all other varieties; Medium -- 73/64" to 76/64" for Eureka, 73/64" to 77/64" for all others; Baby -- 60/64" to 73/64"; and Others -- below 60/64".
 2/ Beginning in 2007, the Howard and Tulare varieties were taken out of "Other" and published separately.
 3/ Percentage distributions based upon nut samples taken in the field may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

***The California Walnut Industry has been very supportive.
 We appreciate your continued cooperation!***

VIC TOLOMEO, Director
 JACK RUTZ – SARAH HOFFMAN, Deputy Directors
 DOUG FLOHR – JENNIFER VAN COURT
 Statisticians – Estimates Group