

Crain Walnut Shelling, Inc.

2008 CALIFORNIA ENGLISH WALNUT CROP

CY 2008 Edition 3.

Crop Development Report

May 23, 2008
Los Molinos, California

The last of the walnut varieties have finished blooming here in California and the crop will soon be set. Last week, temperatures rose from near 80 degrees to nearly 100 degrees Fahrenheit, and conditions were windy which caused the June drop to start earlier than normal. Most of the drop should occur in the next two weeks, which will allow us to start projecting the crop shortly.

Fortunately the recent frost damage was limited to the Northern most growing regions of the State, and primarily in the Howard and Chandler varieties. Due to the fact that most of the damage was to young trees, we do not feel that the crop loss will exceed 5% of the total potential crop.

With minimal rainfall in March and April, growers have not had to apply as many fungicides and there appears to be little walnut blight damage so far. Irrigation water is being applied to supplement the trees needs and fertilizer applications are starting to take place. Tree health looks good in general and the early variety walnuts are sizing well.

We will have another report at the end of June as we near the time when the shells start hardening. At this time we can normally project the harvest timing.

Best Regards,
Chuck Crain



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