

Crain Walnut Shelling, Inc.

## 2011 CALIFORNIA ENGLISH WALNUT CROP

CY 2011 Edition 1.



### BLOOM REPORT

April 26, 2011  
Los Molinos, California

**TO: All Forward Sales Staff, Customers and Friends**  
**From: Chuck Crain, Crain Walnut Shelling, Inc.**

Blooming of the 2011 California English Walnut crop is well underway. About one week behind last year due to rain and cool weather, it is moving quickly as we are now seeing normal daytime temperatures nearing 70 degrees F. Although we are still experiencing significant intermittent rainfall in some growing regions, it should not be a problem as the lower temperatures are favorable for growers, keeping fungus damage to a minimum. Rains are expected to diminish in the next week and return to a more normal weather pattern.

At this time, the early shelling varieties consisting of Payne, Ashley and Serr are nearing 80% bloom, while the middle season varieties of Vina, Howard and Tulare are approximately 55% bloom. Hartley and Chandler varieties are starting to push terminal bud shoots and have started to pollinate in the last week.

So far the bloom timing is good and frost risk is past with little or no damage state-wide. Bloom timing is also compressed this year into a short bloom period due to the cool weather in March and early April, and this should allow for good overlap of the male and female bloom. A short bloom is generally considered to be about 14-17 days. Short blooms normally result in fewer smaller sized nuts than when we have a long drawn out bloom which can be as long as 30 days. Usually the earliest nuts to pollinate are the Jumbo sized nuts and the later pollinating nuts are smaller in size.

The late bloom does not necessarily indicate that harvest will also be delayed, as history has shown that many times favorable growing conditions will allow walnut development to make up some of the time lost. Cooler temperatures during the harvest season can also shorten the growing season, and if all works out favorably, we can still have a harvest at normal time.

We will continue to keep you apprised of developments as the crop matures.

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