



10695 Decker Avenue
Los Molinos, CA 96055
Ph (530) 529-1585
Fax (530) 529-1458
chuck@crainwalnut.com

10660 Bryne Avenue
Los Molinos, CA 96055
Ph (530) 527-1077
Fax (530) 529-4143
billcrain@crainranch.com



California English Walnut Market Update

September 6, 2011

***CASS has released the walnut Objective Measurement Report for 2011/2012.
The 2011 California walnut production is forecast at 485,000 tons.***

See below for the link to the complete report.

[http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics by State/California/Publications/Fruits and Nuts/201109walom.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics%20by%20State/California/Publications/Fruits%20and%20Nuts/201109walom.pdf)

The N.A.S.S. September Objective Measurement Survey estimate of 485,000 in-shell tons was about 8% less than the previous California handler estimate made on July 27th of 523,000 in-shell tons. This smaller estimate is 4% less than the 2010 crop which was 503,000 tons, and assuming that this volume is actually harvested, it will still be the second largest crop ever produced. The O.M. Survey shows that the nut count per tree is down significantly on most varieties from last year, but the nut sizes on most all varieties are larger. The nut counts per tree on Chandler's were down 16%, Hartley's were down 11%, Howards were down 21%, Serr's were down 31% and Vina's were down 15%. The only significant variety that had a larger nut count from last year was the Tulare which was reported to be up 6.5% from 2010.

With the nut counts per tree so low on major varieties, there are only two variables that allow for the nominal 4% projected decline in crop size, and they are the nut size and or the addition of bearing acres. Since the survey still assumes a bearing acreage of 227,000 acres, as it has for the past three years, the nut size is the only possibility. The larger nut size should result in a better kernel yield and possibly a lower machine loss during the shelling process. This assumes of course that we do not suffer above average damage from rain during the harvest period.

This morning, we performed cuttings on early harvesting varieties grown in the Sacramento Valley to determine maturity and application timing for Ethephon to expedite harvest. As of today, maturity of those varieties is 12 days behind normal or 7 days behind last year's late crop. This timing is consistent with cuttings performed over the past couple of days by growers in other major growing regions. Though the base line for harvest is set for early varieties, it is possible that the harvest timing on later harvesting varieties will move forward somewhat if we continue to have cooler than normal weather. If this happens, we could see a slightly compressed ripening between the early and later varieties much like we had last year. If the weather turns hot over the next two weeks, the maturity of late varieties will likely continue to be delayed by about 12 days from normal harvest timing.

Good luck on the upcoming harvest!

If you know anyone who would be interested in receiving this information, please let us know. If you have any questions please call us!