

THE NUTCAST

Valley Harvest
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NATIONAL ALMOND DAY

With a history that dates back to ancient times, it's no wonder this miraculous little tree fruit is so widely used and revered. It's also no wonder that this ultimate super food has its very own day of honor.

So, whether you enjoy almonds **plain** or **roasted**, paired with **chocolate** or **fish**, or perhaps as the ultimate **aid for dry skin**, celebrate National Almond Day not only on February 16, but everyday.

<https://www.nationalalmond.com/>

Answers for 7 Almond Facts
(1) China; (2) Almond;
(3) Answer A; (4) Padres;
(5) Vitamin E;
(6) Lower Cholesterol; (7) 25.

Market Report

Continued from last month...

This month is considered the half-way point in the selling year. The season continues to roll along with ups and downs. Almonds, the most healthy of all the nut family, continue to move out to the consumer. The 2021 crop receipts are now at 2.8 billion pounds – creeping up to last year's final number of 3.0 billion.

Shipping continues to be down when compared by percentage to prior years. Of that downward spiral, the domestic market (where Valley Harvest shines) is slightly up. It is the export market that brings the shipping numbers down. Our Valley Harvest shipments continue to be up – we are now 10% above the total industry shipping percentage. **WE ARE BLESSED!**

Sadly, this report announces more falling prices; prices for product being offered is all over the board. Even so, right now grower returns are on track to end a few cents ahead of the 2021 closing prices. Prices fell drastically after last month's newsletter and are falling again. We govern our price point from our natural regu-

lar slice price. Even though that price to the customer fell \$0.20 this month we are still ahead *slightly* of the 2020 crop average price. Until shipments improve at the ports and the total almond supply decreases, prices will be down. Unfortunately, the lower grower prices are reflected in this payment and then possibly again in the April 30th payment.

We completed one of the driest Januarys on record while December was a record wet month! Such drastic differences. Just when we were gaining confidence that the drought could be over, we are now facing a snow pack less than normal. We hope and trust we will receive more good rains – of course, after the bloom finishes!

On a bright side, the sunshine during bloom is great for nut set. Some are wondering if the sunshine will create one of the warmest blooms setting another large crop. That is great for grower yields, but tough on the prices—such a challenging dilemma for the farmer. We take what we get and still look for blessings.

BLESSINGS CAN BE FOUND EVERYWHERE!

7 ALMOND FACTS

(1) Where did almonds originate?

- A. Chico
- B. Chattanooga
- C. China

(2) What is the world's most popular tree nut?

- A. Peanut
- B. Corn-nut
- C. Almond

(3) Almonds are in the Rose family, cousin to which trees?

- A. Apricots, Apples, Peach, Plum, Cherry
- B. Oranges
- C. Oak

(4) Who first brought almonds to California?

- A. Padres
- B. Giants
- C. Dodgers

(5) Almonds are rich in Antioxidants and which Vitamin?

- A. Vitamin E
- B. Vitamin X
- C. Vitamin Z

(6) Almonds do what for our health?

- A. Cure baldness
- B. Cure warts
- C. Lower cholesterol

(7) How many almond kernels do you need to eat every day to lower Cholesterol?

- A. 250
- B. 25
- C. 2.5

