



Almond calendar

The following is the calendar for almond management in California.



Winter Dormant Season

- **Tree management.**
 - **Pruning.** Prune trees in December/January to allow more light into the tree to promote growth of new fruiting wood.
 - Remove dead, diseased, drooping branches and “suckers” in the center of trees.
- **Pest management.**
 - Remove and destroy old nuts on trees and on ground to reduce overwintering navel orangeworms.
 - Spray trees with dormant oil to kill peach twig borer, San Jose scale, and mite eggs.



Spring Bloom Season

- **Nutrient management (mature trees).** Just prior to the first irrigation, apply 2 lb (0.9 kg urea = 0.4 kg N) or 30 lb (14 kg) of manure. For young trees, use small, frequent doses of N throughout the growing season.
- **Watering.** Irrigate regularly to meet daily tree water needs.
 - Sprinkle irrigate every 1–3 weeks starting 2–3 weeks after winter rains have finished. Apply 2-3 in (5-7.5cm) water/irrigation. Trees growing in shallow or sandy soils need more frequent watering.



Summer Growing Season

- **Watering.** Continue irrigating as during spring bloom season. Do not over irrigate as Almonds do not like to be waterlogged.
- **Nutrient management.** Fertilize trees at same rate used for the spring application just prior to last irrigation before harvest.
- **Harvest.** Nuts are ready for harvest after hulls split and the shell is dry and brown. Separate hulls from nut and discard. Nuts can be in shell or out.
- **Post harvest.** Freeze in-shell nuts for 1–2 weeks to kill resident worms. Store in sealed containers to prevent re-infestation.



Fall Harvest Season

- **Pest management.** May need to spray trees (with fixed copper) during or after leaf fall but before onset of winter rains to reduce damage from shot hole fungus.

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Reference: Adapted from the California Backyard orchard http://homeorchard.ucdavis.edu/Fruits_&_Nuts/Almond/

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