



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



2026 California Walnut Objective Measurement Report

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WALNUT PRODUCTION FORECAST DOWN

The 2026 California walnut production is forecast at 680,000 tons, down 16 percent from the 2025 production of 809,000 tons. The preliminary estimate of producing bearing acres is 371,000. Land IQ walnut acreage, age, and removals mapping data were consulted.

The 2026 Walnut O.M. Survey utilized a total of 749 blocks with two sample trees per block. Survey data indicated an average nut set per tree of 796, down 18 percent from the 2025 average of 972. For estimating purposes, 82 trees/acre were utilized.

Estimated nut sets, sizing measurements, average number of trees per acre, and estimated bearing acreage were used in the statistical models.

ON-TREE SAMPLING PROCEDURES

Once a block is randomly selected and permission is granted by the operation for enumerators to enter the block, two trees are randomly selected. An accessible branch is chosen which is 5-15 percent of the total cross-sectional area of the primary limbs and reachable with a twelve-foot ladder.

Measurements are made on the trunk, each primary, and each split leading to and including the accessible branch. The sample tree and accessible branch are marked by a single tag, so that the same trees are sampled the following year if that orchard is selected. On the accessible branch, every nut is counted, and the first of every five nuts is picked for use in size and grade determinations. If available, at least ten nuts are harvested from the accessible branch for this purpose.

The following measurements are made on nuts selected for sizing:

1. Weight of nut in-shell
2. Width of shell at suture
3. Width of shell 90 degrees to suture line (cross-suture)
4. Length of shell
5. Kernel grade

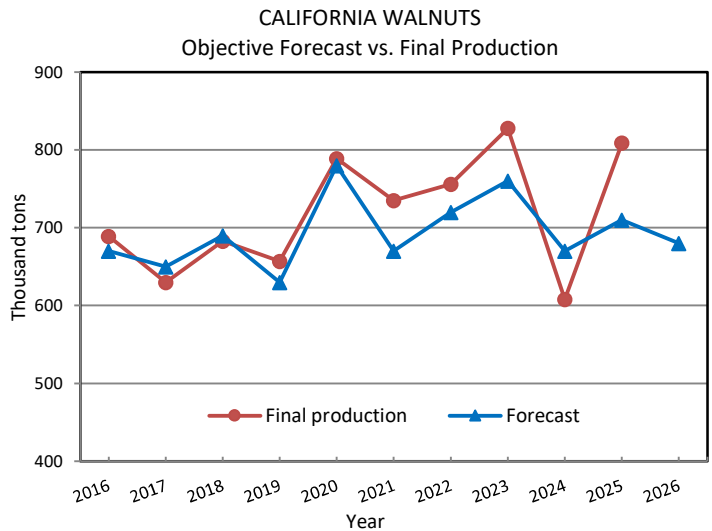
SURVEY HISTORY

The Walnut O.M. Survey began in 1958 to fulfill industry needs for an accurate walnut production forecast prior to harvest. The original sample was chosen proportionally to county and variety of bearing acreage. With each successive year, additions and deletions have been made in the sample to adjust for acreage removed, new bearing acreage, and operations that choose not to participate in the survey.

FIELD SAMPLING PROCEDURES

The 2026 Walnut Objective Measurement (O.M.) Survey was officially conducted from July 20 through August 29, 2026. There were a few samples completed before July 20 for training and scheduling purposes. There were 1,498 trees sampled from 749 orchards. Additional orchards were not sampled for one of the following reasons:

- 1) Orchard had been sprayed.
- 2) Orchard had been recently irrigated and was wet.
- 3) Orchard had been pulled.
- 4) Grower would not grant permission or could not be contacted



Year	Forecast	Final	Percent Difference
	Thousand Tons		Forecast/Final
2016	670	689	-3%
2017	650	630	3%
2018	690	683	1%
2019	630	657	-4%
2020	780	789	-1%
2021	670	735	-9%
2022	720	756	-5%
2023	760	828	-8%
2024	670	608	10%
2025	710	809	-12%
2026	680		

SETS, BY COUNTY, 2024-2026

County	All Varieties		Chandler	
	Number of Samples	Nuts per tree	Number of Samples	Nuts per tree
BY COUNTY				
Butte				
2024	107	672	76	699
2025	114	960	86	1,039
2026	102	918	75	967
Colusa				
2024	--	--	--	--
2025	31	1,057	--	--
2026	42	893	34	803
Glenn				
2024	64	719	45	704
2025	71	989	51	1,059
2026	69	1,071	52	1,132
San Joaquin				
2024	111	665	59	698
2025	112	987	63	1,033
2026	124	813	73	798
Stanislaus				
2024	61	668	38	715
2025	66	856	38	1,008
2026	62	510	34	584
Sutter				
2024	80	664	54	632
2025	84	665	59	664
2026	82	656	57	631
Tehama				
2024	59	535	40	568
2025	66	768	46	781
2026	63	827	43	829
Tulare				
2024	63	1,000	32	914
2025	62	1,441	33	1,467
2026	60	755	--	--
Yuba				
2024	34	611	--	--
2025	39	1,008	--	--
2026	36	512	--	--
Other				
2024 ^{1,2}	132	1,060	115	991
2025 ^{2,3}	111	1,086	127	1,142
2026 ^{4,5}	109	820	127	789

SETS, BY VARIETY, 2024-2026

Variety	State Level	
	Number of Samples	Nuts per tree
ALL		
2024	711	761
2025	756	972
2026	749	796
BY VARIETY		
Chandler		
2024	459	770
2025	503	1,025
2026	495	826
Hartley		
2024	32	640
2025	--	--
2026	--	--
Howard		
2024	93	737
2025	107	781
2026	108	763
Tulare		
2024	92	668
2025	92	912
2026	96	684
Other		
2024 ¹	35	1,057
2025 ²	54	968
2026 ²	50	793

¹ Other includes: Durham, Eureka, Franquette, Ivanhoe, Livermore, Payne, Serr, Solano, Tehama, and Vina.

² Other includes: Durham, Hartley, Ivanhoe, Livermore, Payne, Serr, Solano, Tehama, and Vina.

¹ Other 'All Varieties' counties include: Colusa, Fresno, Kings, Lake, Madera, Merced, Monterey, Placer, Sacramento, Shasta, Solano, and Yolo.

² Other 'Chandler' counties include: Colusa, Fresno, Kings, Lake, Madera, Merced, Monterey, Placer, Sacramento, Shasta, Solano, Yolo, and Yuba.

³ Other 'All Varieties' counties include: Fresno, Kings, Lake, Madera, Merced, Monterey, Placer, Sacramento, Shasta, Solano, and Yolo.

⁴ Other 'All Varieties' counties include: Fresno, Kings, Madera, Merced, Monterey, Placer, Sacramento, Shasta, Solano, and Yolo.

⁵ Other 'Chandler' counties include: Fresno, Kings, Madera, Merced, Monterey, Placer, Sacramento, Shasta, Solano, Tulare, Yolo, and Yuba.

The Objective Measurement Survey is funded by the California Walnut Board.

The California Walnut Industry has been very supportive.

We appreciate your continued cooperation!

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