

Objectives for 1991-92:

Long Range:

- I. Develop pollinizers for current varieties, particularly Nonpareil.
- II. Develop replacement varieties for Nonpareil and other market types that are self-fertile and with a wide range of bloom times and maturities.

Current:

- A. Identify effective parental combinations resulting in high quality and yield, late flowering period and self-fertility. Begin studies to elucidate the underlying physiology and genetic control and inheritance of these traits.
- B. Test genetic strategies for developing protection from Budfailure, Aspergillus flavus, NOW, and other disease and insect problems, and for improving tree yield.
- C. Improve the evaluation and testing of breeding lines and selections. Characterize nut quality and yield potential of present selections, breeding lines and variety standards.
- D. Improve efficiency for the genetic transformation of<br>established almond varieties. Develop efficient shoot established almond varieties.<br>regeneration methods. Develop Develop protocols for testing the genetic stability of resultant chimeric shoots.

Progress Report: January, 1991 - January, 1992

The basic parts of a crop breeding program are the generation of new genetic combinations, the selection of promising individuals from these recombinant populations, and the thorough testing of these selections over the range of environments likely to be met in the course of production. The critical components of such a genetic improvement program are shown in Figure 1. This report emphasizes the first 4 of these sequential components: the determination of appropriate and focused goals for the breeding program, the appraisal and collection of genetic material with potential for achieving the defined goals, the recombination of genetic material in order to concentrate the most desirable genes from quality and production standpoints into superior individuals, and the screening of progeny populations resulting from this recombination in order to eliminate all but the most promising or elite selections.

## Goal.

The primary goal of the breeding program is to develop more effective pollinizers for current varieties (particularly Nonpareil) and to develop replacement varieties for Nonpareil and other market types exhibiting dependable and high yields even under conditions of reduced agro-chemical and cultural inputs. Desirable characteristics include self-fertility and decreased vulnerability to insect and disease pests, and Bud-failure.

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Source of genes.

The California almond germplasm is fairly inbred. While a complex series of crosses (or reshuffling of genes) often occurs before an elite selection is recovered, the majority of parents utilized are closely related, being derived from a small number of initial parents. In fact, most almond varieties of present commercial importance are progenies of crosses between Nonpareil and Mission. The pedigree of all advanced UC breeding lines and advanced selections has been determined and is provided in Table 1. Greater genetic diversity is available in this collection, particularly with the incorporation of germplasm from the related Prunus species P. webbii, P. fenzliana, P. persica, and P. argentea. The material within this collection represents the accumulated genetic improvements of the breeding program since its origin. Thus, an understanding of the goals, materials and strategies of earlier programs is essential for adequate assessment of the collection's present and future potential.

The almond breeding program has been in effect as a project of the California Agricultural Experiment station since the early 1920's. This project was carried out jointly with the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the direction of A.E. Davey (UC) and Milo Wood (USDA) until 1946, at which time the programs were separated. Dr. Robert Jones directed the USDA program until its termination in 1972. E.F. Serr and Harold Forde continued UC almond breeding work evaluating seed from previous crosses by Davey and Wood as well as

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their own crosses made in 1950 and 1951. The goal of this early program was new kernel types, improved production and better pollinizers for Nonpareil.

Seedlings were grown in close-planted blocks located on UC land south of I-80 and were identified as (in chronology of planting): Walnut variety block, Walnut spacing block, Seedling block 1, Seedling block 2, Seedling block 3, and Close planting block. Dr. Dale E. Kester began to make crosses in 1952 in attempts to develop a higher quality small kernel almond for the confectionery industry. Additional goals were: to incorporate late bloom and self-fertility, to understand the genetics of Noninfectious budfailure, to develop peach x almond rootstocks, and to evaluate the potential of wild almond species for breeding. Progeny from crosses made by Kester were planted in consecutively identified seedling blocks (Seedling Block (SB) 1 through SB13). These were located in the central campus area (near present site of greenhouses and field house and later on the Stralach Farms area.)

Progeny populations resulting from the more recent crosses were identified by a unique numbering system. It consisted of the year that the cross was made coupled with a number identifying the individual cross. A dash separated this Cross No. with the seedling number given in the sequence of planting. Thus, 6018-01 would be the 18th cross made in 1960 with a seedling number of 01. (A compilation of the progeny produced in this program is continuing. )

In addition, three selection blocks were established to provide replicated tests of new selections arising from these progeny and to maintain germplasm.

- 1. Kearney field station. Trees were propagated by the Dave wilson nursery with two trees per each item. This block was very successful because of the favorability of the soil, irrigation system, climate and management. Jim Doyle managed the block and assisted by obtaining much of the data from these trees.
- 2. UC Davis. This block was established in the Straloch Farms west of the present orchard house area. It turned out to a less desirable site with relatively heavy soil that was poorly drained on the north end. Trees were slow to come into production as compared to those of Kearney.
- 3. Wolfskill Experimental Orchards, winters. The original almond variety collection was located in the north corner of Field 7 close to the main buildings. The block was expanded to the south in 19 and included all the accumulated germplasm and selections at the time of its planting.

## varieties released from these programs

- Davey (Serr, et.al., 1953) was released to provide a pollinizing variety that bloomed with Nonpareil and provide cross-pollination. Although planted in considerable number initially it quickly lost favor because of its excessive vigor and uprightness, slowness to come into bearing, and difficulty to manage including knocking and pruning problems.
- Kapareil (Kester, et al., 1961) was released to provide a variety that closely resembled Nonpareil except for significantly smaller kernel size, which bloomed, harvested and crosspollinated with Nonpareil.
- Milow (distributed for test plantings in 1965). It was thought to provide an improved substitute for Kapareil with the same characteristics. The great difficulty in nut removal from the tree has pretty much ruled out its use as a commercial variety.
- Sonora (Kester, et al., 1983) was released as an early blooming pollinator of Nonpareil with favorable nut and tree characteristics. It has become an important variety in recent plantings.
- Padre (Kester, et al., 1983) was released as a companion with Mission (Texas) with similar characteristics of yield, nut and tree behavior. It has been found highly compatible with Marianna 2624 rootstock. Plantings have

become significant in recent new orchards.

Solano (Kester, et al., 1983) was released because of its close resemblance in nut, tree, and blooming time with Nonpareil but with better shell characteristics. It is cross-compatible with Nonpareil. It is not being planted presumably because of difficulty in nut removal.

The last three varieties were selected from progeny of seed obtained by Serr and Ford from the UC-USDA program and planted in the UC orchards. Selection and evaluation was carried by USDA and then UC personnel.

Recent evaluations. In 1987, comprehensive surveys and evaluations were begun of all varieties, germplasm, and potential new introductions in the UC collections. Potentially valuable germplasm was propagated by a commercial nursery onto Nemaguard rootstocks and the various items were planted in spring 1988 into three basic collections.

- A. Basic germplasm of the crop, including species and unique genotypes. these were transferred to the National Clonal Germplasm Repository,Davis (NCGP, Davis), a USDA facility located at UC Davis and WEO, winters.
- B. Dept. of Pomology Variety Collection, including old and current varieties supplement by some unnamed selections and genotypes. This collection is located at Wolfskill Experimental Orchard (Field 5). Financial assistance has been

provided by the California Germplasm Resources Group for maintenance of this block (see Table 2).

C. Department of Pomology Breeding Collection including:

(1) Advanced selections of recent breeding efforts, primarily those originating from populations 1978 through 1980, (2) Breeding materials and advanced selections from previous efforts, and, (3) Miscellaneous germplasm materials with unique characteristics, including a number of genotypes from the USDA breeding program.

Breeding collection items have been planted on 2 blocks at the Wolfskill Research station; Field 7 (Table 3) and Field 10D (Table 4). The reason for inclusion of each item into these advanced selection blocks is provided in the remarks (and/or the utility code columns of Table 10).

Limits in the genetic variability utilized by the earlier breeding programs restricted the amount of variation expressed in progeny populations. The Californian almond genepool is based upon 2 'founder' varieties -Nonpareil and Mission, with some contribution from the other 4 original varieties (IXL, Ne Plus Ultra, Peerles and Drake). In many ways this is an advantage as the original varieties were selected for their high adaptation to Californian environmental, management, and marketing conditions. Their progeny provides a wide range of recombination within this selected germplasm which can result in a high proportion of progeny populations retaining that high adaptation. This accounts for the large numbers of varieties that have originated as "chance seedlings" from commercial plantings.

However, this pattern produces potential for serious breeding problems. First of all, the gene pool includes undesirable traits that can adversely effect performance of specific varieties, (for example, susceptibility to noninfectious bud-failure, susceptibility to brown rot and shothole, late harvest, difficulty in knocking, NOW susceptibility from unsealed shells, etc.). Specific traits can be introduced when specific parents are introduced into the gene pool. For instance, the minor Harriot introduced excellent tree and nut characteristics but is a very early bloomer. When combining with Nonpareil a breeding line was produced which was very susceptible to noninfectious bud-failure. Eureka, another minor variety, introduces excellent kernel qualities and good production but also seems to introduce nuts that are hard to remove from the tree. Mission provides good tree characteristics but the nuts are often very late maturing. Many of the varieties introduced over the past 50 years, although desirable in various traits, have undesirable features which lead to their eventual rejection by orchardists. As a result, a changing pattern of variety introductions in nursery plantings has characterized its almond industry in California.

The inbred nature of the breeding populations can be a further major impediment to progress when the traits being selected for are not to be found with the population.

The lack of genetic solutions within earlier breeding populations has necessitated the incorporation of new germplasm for

several important production problems, including self-fertility, improved yield potentials, and resistance to important disease and insect pests.

The incorporation of breeding material from other areas and species, while potentially introducing genetic solution to targeted problems, inevitably introduces a large amount of unadapted and undesirable genes which have to be painstakingly selected out. If the trait is controlled by a large number of genes, each of which contributes a relatively small positive contribution (quantitative traits) then selection for that trait is very difficult since each gene is probably linked to several undesirable genes and a very long and tedious crossing and recrossing program is needed to break those linkages as well as to concentrate the desirable genes into individual plants. Easier to deal with are traits where one or a few genes have a large positive effect (qualitative trait) as it facilitates incorporation into elite breeding lines. The ease of manipulation of a given genetic trait is referred to as its heritability, (the larger the heritability value the more easy to manipulate in a controlled crossing program). Estimates of the heritability of some important almond traits obtained from an analysis of progeny segregation patterns over the last 20 years are given in Table 5.

Recombination.

Genetic recombination is possible through controlled crosses between selected parents (sexual recombination) or through the insertion of genetically engineered genes into cells of the target plant followed by the regeneration of a whole plantlet from those cells (biotechnology).

Recombination by controlled crosses remains the fundamental approach to variety improvement employed by our program as well as virtually every other applied crop breeding program now in operation. In 1991, over 15,000 controlled crosses were made to parents selected for their potential horticultural contribution and estimated combining ability or complimentarity based on accumulated data. Almost 4,000 seedlings were grown last winter/spring from crosses made in 1990. Roughly 30% of these seedlings were killed by the frost and subsequent dry conditions with approximately 2,900 seedlings surviving (Table 6). Due to the unusually large size of 1990 and 1991 populations, combined with University budget cuts and reassignments of personnel responsibilities, this season's plantings have been reduced from the targeted 3,000 to 2,000. This lower planting will result in the continued infusion of new recombinant progeny into the program while allowing for some buffering of the work load in 1994-95 when the larger previously planted populations will come into bearing. Progress in direct data collection onto field computers, integrated database analysis, as well as improved cultural management efficiency should also offset field work loads. Further efficiency is anticipated through progress towards improved efficiencies with controlled crosses. One approach we are testing is the use of enclosed trees pollinated by mini honey bee hives. Tests in the past 2 seasons have confirmed the very high self-incompatibility of the California almond cultivars. Selfed seed sets less than 0.01%. By providing bouquets of fresh flowers from selected parents to completely enclosed, mini-hive containing trees in 1991, we have effected several hundred crosses with minimal labor. (The test occurred in Davis blocks and most fruit were subsequently damaged by the endemic crow population there). Our next step is to test similar honey bee mediated crosses to small containerized trees within a specialized screen house modified in 1990-1991 for this purpose. A second approach which we will test in 1992 is the collection of mature nuts from field plots of the selected seed parent where the desired pollen parent is the adjacent 'pollinizer' row. (Regional variety plots are well suited for such crosses due to the alternating row of Nonpareil or Mission). Based on honey bee pollinator behavior studies from California and Australia, we can be confident that a very high proportion of such selected seed results from the anticipated pollen parent. Paternity can later be verified using genetic fingerprinting techniques being developed in the Biochemical markers project with Dr. Arulsekar.

Biotechnology. While the regeneration of almond has been reported in other labs we have not moved aggressively in this area, primarily because the regeneration of plantlets has usually occurred when the original cells are from seedling rather than mature tissue. The most significant benefit biotechnology offers to almond breeding at this time is the correction of a specific deficiency of an already established variety, for example, selffertility in Nonpareil. successfully adding an engineered gene to a seedling (and so very probably horticulturally inferior) plant still leaves the daunting job of breeding through traditional crossing, the engineered gene into a suitable genetic background. (The reason plant tissue from established varieties will not regenerate into whole plants is poorly understood but probably relates to the loss of juvenility of that tissue -cuttings of established 'own rooted' varieties root poorly because of the same cause) .

Research in this area accounts for only about 5% of the total project time. The goal is the regeneration of plantlets from transformed cells from established varieties (initially Nonpareil) . Our approach is to employ cells that have never lost their ability to regenerate -i.e. cells from the plant meristem. The ability to isolate and regenerate this tissue would allow ready transformation/regeneration of any of the presently established varieties. The manipulation and regeneration from meristematic tissue would further allow the engineering of plant chimeras in

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which the Histogen 1 (HI) or epidermal layer including both fruit skin and the seed coat could be selected for disease and/or insect resistance leaving the inner varietal tissue unadulterated. Such HI resistance could be recovered from either genetic engineering or traditional techniques.

## Progeny screening.

Approximately 3,000 progeny trees are now being screened. These evaluations have the dual purpose of eliminating inferior material and collecting information on value of different crossing combinations (including susceptibility to Bud Failure). Accurate assessment of crossing combination value would allow a more efficient breeding program decisions in the future but would entail collecting extensive data on each individual. Descriptors and recognized standards for basic almond characteristics are summarized in Table 7, while specific evaluation criteria used in the UC breeding program for important field and marketing characteristics are provided in Table 8 (along with data from 11 varieties for comparisons) and in greater detail in Table 9. The 1991 performance of individual lines in the main UC breeding block (F10D) is summarized in Table 10. Most of this data pertains to nut quality though components of yield potential (Bearing units & Crop set) are also included. Yield, while being one of the most important aspects of a new variety, has been one of the most difficult to select for. Analyzing yield potential is complex not only because yield is the end product of a long chain of

developmental events, each with separate genetic, environmental, and management components but often the events in one cycle may interfere with proper development and the succeeding cycle. Unless properly controlled this may lead to overall reduction in yield as well as to the expression of alternate bearing. To deal with this complexity, an Almond production model developed by D.E. Kester, is being used to assist screening and selections. A synopsis of this model is provided in Appendix A, with the main components summarized as follows.

Final yield in almond trees is a function of two parameters: Number of nuts per tree (Crop set) and the average weight of individual nuts. These two parameters translate into yield per tree or per acre as expressed in TOTAL POUNDS per tree (or per acre). Number of nuts per tree is a function of three basic factors: (a) blossom density, (b) proportion of flowers pollinated, and (c) number of nuts retained until harvest.

Figure 2 divides the yield parameters into three basic areas.

a) bearing density potential, b) reproduction potential and c) weight potential. Eight basic stages are shown which describe the continuous progress through the developmental cycles. Bearing potential is the blossom density created by the (1) growth processes and pattern of growth habit that developed during the early the part of the growing season, (2) the proportion of the buds in this pattern that were differentiated to become flower buds, and (c) the development of these buds during the fall and winter to produce viable flower buds the following spring.

The proportional of lateral buds on spurs and/or shoots that differentiate flowers can also be a limiting factor in yield. If the plants are overly vigorous and the variety does not bear on long shoots, the blossom density may be low. Vigor may be genetic (as in Davey) and/or stimulated because of heavy pruning, high fertilization, light crop due to frost or poor pollination, or highly fertile soil.

Poor bud development may be a factor in the ability of the flowers to set the next spring. In some years there is a heavy bud drop during winter, particularly if there is a warm dry period in fall and winter.

Reproductive potential refers to conditions during bloom and in the subsequent nut development period. The most important factor occurs at bloom and involves the ability of the flowers to be crosspollinated. Pollen must be transferred from the anther to the flower by bees and this process must take place between two separate varieties whose pollen is compatible with each other.

Thus the crop potential in any one year depends upon the (a) amount of cross-pollination that occurred, (b) the ability of the pollen to fertilize the egg of that flower and (c) the relative probability of the flower to set fruit as evidently established by the previous development history of that flower. Experiments have shown that these factors are already established at the time of flowering, are independent of each other and is not influenced by the lack of pollination or set on any adjoining flower. The significance is that the amount of pollination needs to be

maximized to produce maximum crop even though only a portion will actually continue to maturity. Percentages of 25 to 50 per cent set have been reported under good production conditions.

other factors that may decrease crop include various defects in the kernel that must be eliminated at processing. These may include worm damage, shriveling, abortion, gumming and other conditions that affect quality. Each of these also have different parameters that affect their occurrence.

Weight potential is the third major category of factors that affect yield. Nut and kernel size, for instance, is established during the early part of the nut development period. Smaller nuts are produced with certain varieties, when very heavy set is produced, or sometimes when stresses occur during the growth period. On the other hand, weight of the kernel is established late in the nut development period and depends upon the translocation of storage materials into the kernel, notably leaf carbohydrates converted to fats and oil or protein. Moisture stress, poor foliage development, mites, etc. can affect these processes to reduce weight.

Growth habit refers to the relative arrangement of vegetative growth and flowers and nuts in relation to tree structure and growth and development patterns. The growth habit of a new selection, in many ways defines the yield potential of that selection. Different growth habits are characteristic of specific varieties which can be controlled through breeding and selection. Environmental conditions and particularly management in controlling vigor are extremely important in establishing optimum bearing potential so that breeding needs to be targeted to specific to specific cultural strategies.

Growth habit is defined as composed of different kinds of BEARING UNITS. A bearing unit is the structure that grows from a single bud within a single season with its associated flower buds. Growth may proceed from either terminal or lateral buds. An outline of the basic types of bearing units and associated growth habits are as follows (see also Appendix B and included drawings):

- 1. Flower buds are produced on long terminal shoots during the first year of growth to flower the second year of the cycle.
- a. Flowers are produced at single nodes of the shoot either separately or in combination with vegetative buds. varieties with this habit include are Sonora, Ne Plus Ultra, Solano and vesta. varieties that have this kind of growth habit tend to come into bearing early.
- b. Flowers are produced on lateral shoots which develop the same year as the main shoot often in relation to flushes of growth (current season laterals). Occurs in Nonpareil, Ne Plus Ultra, many other varieties.
- c. Flowers are produced on short spur-like growth in place of or associated with current season's laterals. Referred to as annual spurs and can be associated with early, heavy yields. Occurs in such varieties as Butte, Carrion, Fritz, Carmel, Merced. To reach full potential of this type, young trees of these varieties respond to high vigor conditions when the trees are young.
- 2. Flowers are produced on lateral growth which emerge from lateral buds on long shoots. This type of growth habit requires two years to initiate flower buds and a third year to produce flowers and fruits.
	- a. Spurs. The almond growth habit involves typical spurs. This structure grows from lateral buds on a shoot during one year, initiates single flower buds at each node and a second year to flower and Spurs are usually less than 5 inches along, may have 1 to 10 lateral flower buds, and only a single vegetative bud at the apex. If the spur is weak or if there is excessive fruit set on the spur, the apical bud may not survive and the spur lives only one year. On the other hand, if the apical bud survives, it may continue to elongate to produce more flower buds next year. This spur is considered perennial and may continue bearing for a number of years.
- b. Lateral shoots. Some varieties and species produce long lateral flower bearing shoots instead of spurs. These types of growth may also occur following certain development conditions in which the amount of growth is unusually long shoot (as compared to a spurs). These may also be referred to as " hangers" . This habit is common with various almond species, as Prunus fenzliana, P. argentea, etc. It is typically found in peach.
- 3. Mixed habits. Many varieties have combinations of both long shoots and spur development. In general this type tends to be associated with earlier and higher yields. This advantage

comes because the terminal shoot bearing habit results in rapid flower initiation in a young tree (early yield) which then reverts to the spur habit as the trees become older.

Multiplication -Field Testing - Release

six selections have advanced through the breeding trials to the point where they are now being considered for inclusion in the next Regional Variety Plots. Final decision on these items will be made shortly, in order to arrange for virus testing and propagation. Descriptions of individual items follow are provided below:

13-1 5001-31 Sel. 3-1 x Sel 6-27

This selection has been one of the most productive selections as well as producing a very large tree which has a dense canopy of very green leaves. It was tested at Kearney Field station and at the UCD Selection block. 1979 data from Kearney shows to have the highest yield of its group. Kernel size was 31/oz. with 56% to be virus positive and subsequently heat treated.

25-75 (Arbuckle x Alm. sel.  $24-6$ ) 45-96 x [(Prunus mira x unknown almond) 1-31 x AIm Sel. 3C-29]4-24E Self-fertile and believed to have a high level of selfpollinating ability. Late Bloom. Trees are being propagated at Burchell Nursery and Dave Wilson nursery for establishing test orchards in Fresno and Kern Cos. under test agreement.

2-19E Tardy Nonpareil x Arbuckle. Late blooming variety with good performance and reasonably good nut. Matures medium just after Nonpareil. Not difficult to knock. Compatible with Nonpareil, Mission, Arbuckle and Padre and 2-19.

 $2 - 43/W$ Tardy Nonpareil x Arbuckle. Similar to and intercompatible with 2-19E. Potential for planting together.









continuous or growth in consecutive flushes-Young plant:

Blocks: F5. F7 and F10D at WEO

File= AlmParent Parentage of items collected for Selection and Breeding

Cultivar QrCultivar or PARE N T S Parents of SEED parent Parent s of POllCN parent SYnonym Selectien Seed Pollen Seed Pollen Seed Pollen RE MAR K S **---** 7926-1 I Padre 54P455 Texas Swanson F8S.EastRow<br>7926-1 I Padre 54P455 Texas Swanson F8S.EastRow 7926-2 2 Padre 54P455 FBS.EastRow 20-20 Sultana Mission 21-19A NOnPareil A.I-30 NOnPareil Eureka 24A-IIA A.IB-l A.2-32 Nonpareil Bidlo/e II NOnPareil Eureka 24-6 . Eureka A.5-25 Nonpareil Eureka, 25-26 A.I-37 A.9-18 Nonoarei I Eureka Nonpareil Harriott 25-7 Nonpareil Lewelling 7926-3 3 Padre' 54P455 Texas Swanson FBS.EastRow 2926-4 4 Padre 54P455 Factos Services Services Services Services Services Services Services Services Services<br>F8S.EastRow 40A-17 Peach. Nematode immune 7926-5 5 Padre 54P455 , FBS.EastRow 7926-6 6 Padre 5&P455 F8S.EastRow F7.6A-U M-ll Jordanolo 25-7 Nl)noareil Harriott Nonoareil lelo/elling A.lS-1 Nonpareil Bidwell A.I-30 Nonpareil Eureka A,l-37 NOnPareil Eureka A.2-32 Nonpareil Eureka A.5-25 Nonpareil Eureka<br>A.9-18 Nonpareil Harriot Nonpareil Harriott Almendro de la oie Almond#1 Almond#2 Almond#4 Almond#5 Almond#6. Arbuckle<br>SB16.9-64 Mission Prwebbii i Bigelow -Butte - Carmel -<br>CP.5-33 . Reams . McLish CP.5-46 Reams McUsh Padre CP,5-58 Reams McLish<br>3-3 Davey Nonpareil SangFay

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Pedigree of some Almond Selections and Cultivars PAGE 2 31-May-90

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File: AlmParent Parentage of items collected for Selection and Breeding



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File= AlmParent Parentage of items collected for Selection and Breeding Blocks: F5, F7 and F100 at WEO





Pedigree of some Almond Selections and Cultivars PAGE 4 31-May-90

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SB20, 1-5

SB3.53-25W

SB3, 54-15W

Mission

Prfenzliana

SolSel.5-15

HybridA

Almond

TardyNonpareil Nonpareil

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Self-fertile

Almond

Prfenzliana

LukensHoneyXMission

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File= AlmParent Parentage of items collected for Selection and Breeding Blocks: F5. F7 and FIOO at UfO



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Table 3<br>WEO. 1988 FIELD 7 PLANTING

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 $\sim 10^{-11}$ 

F701d F7.8-2 Unknown

## Almond Selection and Breeding Block 1  $23$ -May-90

 $File = F7_88MAP$ Planted: 2/88 Location: WEO, Field 7 NE corner. East of South Citrus Block. Row 1-Tr 1 on the NE corner. Row 12 next to Citrus Block.

--------)) North



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 $\bar{z}$ 

File = F10D\_88Pr Almond SELECTION AND BREEDING BLOCK#2 WED Field 1<br>Planted: Rows 1-9 2/8/88; Rows 9-17 to 10-26 Fbr.'90 Rootstock = Nemaguard<br>Row-tree 1-1 at the SW corner, Rows increase toward North. WEO Field 100



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- F8N, 8-25 8021-19 F100,3-26 F5,4-6 X Solano

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Table 5 Estimates of Heritability of Some Nut Traits in Almond.

Trait

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Heritability



#### Table 6

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Delta plot<br>Delta plot

Delta plot<br>Delta plot

Sonora

Fritz

Mission

Mission

Nonpareil

Monterey

Monterey

Monterey

Monterey

 $26 - Jun - 91$ 

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# Page 2



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Table 6. Summary of Carmel average values (1989-91) for trunk growth and<br>the primary yield components. All preharvest cutoff treatments received<br>full postharvest irrigation in 1989 and 1990.



Numbers not followed by the same letter are significantly different than<br>others in the same column at the 5% confidence level using Duncan's multiple range test. NSD indicates no significant difference.

 $\frac{1}{2}$ 

Table 7. Drought irrigation strategy experiment values for applied water, yield,<br>and nut quality. Non Pareil trees were subjected to the 4 deficit irrigation regimes<br>during a simulated drought in 1989 and returned to full



Numbers not followed by the same letter are significantly different than others<br>in the same column at the 5% confidence level using Duncan's multiple range test.<br>NSD indicates no significant difference.



Figure 1. Non Pareil tree nut load for the 8 preharvest cutoff<br>regimes for each of the 3 experimental years. All preharvest All preharvest cutoff treatments received full postharvest irrigation.  $\bar{z}$ 

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 $26 - Jun - 91$ 

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Table 7. Descriptors to characterize almond traits<br>This list is based upon terms and classes approved at GREMPA<br>meeting in (Dokozu and ) Some modification and additional<br>reference genotypes included.

I. Tree characteristics



 $\mathbb{R}^2$ 

 $\mathbf{1}$ 

 $\mathbf{3}$ Low Bartre 5 Intermediate Nonpareil  $7<sup>7</sup>$ High Marcona Foliage density Low Nonpareil  $3<sup>1</sup>$ 5 Intermediate Texas (Mission) Jordanolo  $\overline{7}$ Dense Coloration of shoot tip no anthocyanin  $\Omega$  $\mathbf{3}$ Low Desmayo Largueta  $5<sup>1</sup>$ Intermediate Bartre  $7<sup>7</sup>$ Strong Texas (Mission) II. Reproduction Time of flowering 1. Extremely early Cavaliera, Harriott (Cal.) 2. Very early Desmaya Largueta, Jordanolo Ne Plus Ultra 3. Early 4. Early/intermediate Peerless (Cal) 5. Intermediate Nonpareil 6. Intermediate/Late Drake, Butte (Cal) 7. Late Texas (Mission) 8. Very Late Ferragnes, Ruby 9. Extremely Late Tardy Nonpareil Tree chilling requirement  $\mathbf{1}$ extremely low  $\overline{3}$ Low Marcona  $5<sup>1</sup>$ Medium Texas, Primorskyi  $7<sup>7</sup>$ High Tuono, Filippo Ceo 9 Extremely high Cristomorto, Ferragnes Heat requirement for flower bud emergence  $\mathbf{1}$ extremely  $\overline{3}$ Low Tuono, Filippo ceo  $5<sup>1</sup>$ Medium Desmayo, Ne Plus Ultra  $7<sup>7</sup>$ High Nonpareil, Marcona 9 Rachele, Primorskyi Extremely high Color of petals  $\mathbf{1}$ white Bartre  $3<sup>1</sup>$ light pink AI, Nonpareil  $5<sup>1</sup>$ pink Marcona Double Flowers per bud  $3<sup>1</sup>$ few  $5<sup>1</sup>$ intermediate  $7<sup>1</sup>$ many

 $\overline{2}$ 

Pistils per flower  $\mathbf{1}$ one  $\overline{2}$ one to two  $\overline{3}$ two  $\overline{\mathbf{4}}$ one to three 5 many

Nonpareil Desmayo Largueta

## III. Nut maturity

Nonpareil

Time of Maturity



Cavalier, Kapareil Nonpareil Ferragnes, Ne Plus Ultra<br>Marcona, Carmel (Cal) Texas (Mission)

# Method of splitting

Suture only  $\mathbf 1$ 2-way split  $3.$ 5  $4 - way$  split

Ease of nut removal **low**  $3<sup>1</sup>$  $5<sup>1</sup>$ intermediate  $7<sup>7</sup>$ high

## Ease of hulling

low  $3<sup>1</sup>$ 5 intermediate

 $7<sup>7</sup>$ high

## IV. fruit and nut characters



Nut size  $\mathbf{1}$ very small  $3<sup>7</sup>$  $small1$ Texas (Mission)  $5<sup>1</sup>$ medium Nonpareil  $7<sup>1</sup>$ large Ardechoise, Ne Plus Ultra extremely large 9 Bartre Shape of nut  $1.$ round Marcona  $2<sup>1</sup>$ ovate Texas (Mission)  $3<sup>7</sup>$ oblong Ai  $\overline{4}$ cordate Cristomorto, Nonpareil  $5$ narrow Ne Plus Ultra, Jordanolo Color intensity of shell extremely light  $\mathbf{1}$ Abiod  $\mathbf{3}$ light Peerless 5 intermediate  $7<sup>7</sup>$ dark Marcona Markings on Nut without pores  $\mathbf{O}$  $\mathbf{1}$ Sparsely pored - rounded holes penetrating the shell  $\mathbf{3}$ intermediate densely pored 5  $\overline{7}$ scribed and pored  $\overline{9}$  $scribed$ vertical grooves in the surface Suture opening no opening at the suture  $\mathbf{1}$ 5 slightly open ( 9 very wide Shell integrity All retained 1. 5 partly missing 9 all missing Kernel size  $\overline{2}$ very small  $< 40/$ ounce some wild species  $3<sup>1</sup>$  $small$  $30 - 40/$ ounce Kapareil, Padre  $\overline{4}$ small-medium  $25 - 30/$ ounce Texas (Mission), 5 medium 20-25/ounce Nonpareil  $7<sup>1</sup>$ large  $15 - 20/$ ounce Ne Plus Ultra 9 very large  $>15/$ ounce Bartre Kernel shape oblong uniform width oval widest half way between tip and base obovate widest near base wedge widest at base, tapering sharply toward apex



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TABLE & Evaluation Schedule - Field and Marketing Characteristics of Ela  $\sim$ 

"The higher the rating, on a scale of 1 to 3, 1 to 5, or 1 to 10, the better the variety's performance.<br>†Estimated.

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 $\label{eq:2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\int_{0}^{\pi} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^{2}dx$ 

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Consistency of Bearing 1-5 -<br>alternate bearing. Does not

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Early Production (precocity) bearing at an early age.

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RATING SCHEDULE - FIELD

FIELD CHARACTERISTICS

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TREE CHARACTERISTICS

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analysis.

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10.

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This form provides a system to evaluate commercial use of almond<br>varieties for processor, producer and nurseryman in comparison to<br>five standard varieties. Ratings are recorded from a numerical<br>subjective judgement or expe

ALMOND VARIETY EVALUATION SCHEDULE

Use blank column(s) for test variety(ies). Write variety name or<br>selection number on top of column. Give a numerical score for<br>particular trait on scale of either  $l-3$ ,  $l-5$  or  $l-10$  as indicated.<br>These the raitings of INSTRUCTIONS:

# NUT CHARACTERISTICS  $\overrightarrow{z}$



Merced is the principal variety in the California group.

Usual Range  $\frac{1}{2}$ 



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**NAME** 

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OCCUPATION: GROWER  $\overline{I}$ **ADDRESS** 

FIELDMAN I RESEARCH I

EXTENSION  $\overline{I}$ 

HANDLER  $/7$ 

 $(specify)$ 

OTHER  $I$ 



 $\label{eq:2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\sum_{i=1}^n\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\sum_{i=1}^n\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\sum_{i=1}^n\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\sum_{i=1}^n\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\sum_{i=1}^n\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\sum_{i=1}^n\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\sum_{i=1}^n\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\sum_{i=1}^n\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\sum_{i=1}^n\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\sum_{i=1}^n\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\sum_{i=1}^n\frac{1$ 

 $\label{eq:2.1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2.$ 





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Table 10

WEO, 1991 F10D SUMMARY

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## YIELD PARAMETERS IN ALMOND PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION IN ALMOND = Pounds/acre = pounds/tree x number of trees/acre (density)

Pounds/tree = number of nuts x average kernel weight

During life of an orchard,

YIELD POTENTIAL depends upon:

- 1. Precocity = how fast does an orchard come into bearing
- 2. average yield/acre
- 3. consistency of yield (alternate bearing)

MODEL FOR ANALYZING YIELD POTENTIAL

based upon 2 year developmental cycle from initial shoot emergence to final nut production (see Figure ooo)

a. Two year seasonal cycle is divided into 9 key steps at which final yield can be affected.

b. These 9 steps fall into three groups

c. Two overlapping cycles are in progress at the same time, one starting one year after the other

Blossom density potential (also see Model II)<br>1. Vegetative growth (terminal and lateral shoots)

 $2.$ 

Flower bud initiation<br>Flower bud development  $3.$ 

Reproductive potential<br>4. pollination

5. Fertilization (pollen compatibility)

- abscission of nuts (retention) б.
- 7. Development of rejects

Weight potential

8. Establishment of nut size

9. Accumulation of dry weight

1. Vegetative growth

a. occurs in March, April, May but depends upon the kind of growth habit and bearing units involved (See Model II. Bud development)

b. any condition that expands vegetative growth (e.g. increased water, high nitrogen availability, prior heavy pruning) tends to increase the future yield potential.

c. on the other hand, conditions that inhibit growth (e.g.,<br>water or nutrient stress) tends to decrease the future yield<br>potential and is a factor in alternate bearing.<br>d. high nut density (i.e., percent set) tends to decr

factor in alternate bearing.

2. Flower bud initiation

a. arrangement: depends upon growth habit; develops in lateral buds on spurs and sometimes on shoots (see Growth Habit). never terminal.

b. timing: occurs after terminal growth ceases and lateral buds develop scales and are quiescent. Inductive shift from vegetative to flowering is complete by mid August. Prior to that induction can be inhibited.

 $\mathbf{c}$ . inhibition: severe moisture stress and(or) heat may inhibit flower bud induction and is a factor in alternate bearing.

d. vigor: excess vigor may tend to depress flower bud induction.

3. Flower bud development

a. timing: begins in late August and September and continues through the fall and winter

b. Exposure to a certain amount of chilling is required for proper development of flower buds and for emergence of shoot buds in the following spring. Occurs usually during late October, November and first part of December.

c. Failure to achieve proper development may result in bud drop during winter (associated with high temperature and/or moisture stress) and poorly developed flowers (undeveloped pistils) that drop during or immediately after bloom.

4. Flowering and Cross-pollination

a. cross-pollination is the transfer of pollen from flowers of one variety to another by bees.

b. studies show that maximum set (see next section) is proportional to the number of flowers pollinated.

c. Pollination is affected by weather (temperature, wind, of rain), numbers pollinators (bees) and their flight distribution and arrangement of pollinizers (variety combination). A Pollination Model has been developed (Hoffman-DiGrandi, Thorp and Loper 1991).

d. This period is the single most critical point in the yield cycle in determining yield in any one year.

5. Flowering and Fertilization

a. Fertilization is the joining of pollen and egg gametes within the ovule following pollen tube growth down the style. Requires that the pollen be cross-compatible with the stigma and style of the flower.

b. Relative probability to achieve fertilization appears to vary from flower to flower and is conditioned by internal factors probably established during development which are present at the time of bloom.

c. Timing of pollination may be a factor in that embryo sac may deteriorate before pollen tube growth is completed.

d. SET refers to the proportion of flowers that produce fruits (nuts) and is usually given in PERCENT. Its value is the product of the probabilities of the two independent factors: pollination fertilization percentage. percentage and Any reduction in the population of viable flowers (e.g. disease, frost, poor development, etc) or of the population of pollinizers has a net reduction in final set. Occurs because the reduction of one factor cannot be offset by the reduction of another.

6. Abscission and\or nut retention

6. Abscission and or nut retention<br>a. After flowering, natural "thinning" tends to occur to<br>eliminate poorly developed flowers (first drop at or shortly<br>after bloom), unfertilized flowers (second drop about 3 weeks<br>after b bloom)

Third drop ("June drop") may result from various b. physiological conditions, including excess shading, certain mineral deficiencies and others not understood.

## 7. Reject kernels

a. At harvest and/or during processing, some individual kernels must be rejected because of infestation or poor quality.

b. Main classes include the following:

"blanks" - no embryo within the pellicle: uncertain causes but may be failure to be fertilized; frost injury in embryo "Shrivels" - undeveloped or unfilled kernels

"Gummy" - "bleeding" of gum inside fruit. Often associated with injury (see next) in fruit. Some varieties more susceptible.

"Corky or scabby growth" - callus growth on kernels that come<br>from cracks in the shell early in the development period<br>"Worm damage" - Navelorange worm or twig borer that infest the<br>softer shelled kernels beginning when th "split" on the tree.

8. Establishment of nut size

- Size dimensions of individual kernels is established during<br>the early part of the fruit growth cycle (March, April).  $a<sub>1</sub>$
- Affected by variety (genetically controlled), crop density<br>(size and number are reciprocally related), growing b. conditions (vigor tends to increase size).

9. Accumulation of dry weight

- a. Pattern of weight accumulation takes place in latter half of the nut development process and continues until nuts split at maturity
- b. Inhibited by moisture stress, defoliation and any condtions that adversely affect the production and transfer of photosynthates.
- c. Adverse conditions may be expressed by shriveled and unfilled kernels.

## A CLASSIFICATION OF GROWTH HABITS TRAITS IN ALMOND

Growth habit is the arrangement of vegetative growth and location of flowers and nuts. Growth habits characterize different varieties and is a parameter of yield potential. Growth habit traits are largely controlled by breeding through the selection of tree structure and growth and development patterns. However, the expression of growth habit can be greatly influenced by environmental conditions and management procedures primarily through the control of vigor.

Growth habit is composed of different kinds of BEARING A bearing unit is a vegetative structure (shoot or spur) UNITS. that originates from a single bud bearing a combination of vegetative and flower buds. Shoot growth may begin from either<br>terminal or lateral buds. An outline of the basic types of bearing units of this type is as follows:

TERMINAL GROWTH.  $I.$ Shoot growth emerging from terminal buds. I. TERMINAL GROWIN. SHOOT GLOWING EMERGING ITOM COMMISSION CONTINUES FOR the apical shoot often in flushes of<br>growth. Lateral growing points produced in axils of leaves may<br>produce vegetative buds, flower buds or lateral s same year of initiation. One or more buds are produced at each node.

a. TS - Terminal Shoot - few or no flowers

Lateral buds are essentially all vegetative. Varieties in this category are primarily spur producers. Characteristic of Mission (Texas), Padre, Ferragnes, Ferraduel, Truoito.

b. TSf - Terminal Shoot - flowers

Various numbers of flower buds develop at single nodes of the shoot singly or in combination with vegetative buds.<br>Varieties with this habit include 'Sonora', 'Ne Plus Ultra', 'Solano' and 'Vesta'. Varieties with this kind of

growth habit tend to come into bearing early and respond to conditions that increase vigor. Some of these varieties show alternating bearing under stress conditions.

c. Csl - Current Season Laterals.

Lateral buds on current seasons shoots grow into lateral shoots during the same year as initiated. Occurs in Nonpareil, Ne Plus Ultra and many other varieties. It is common in one or two year old trees.

d. ASp - Annual spur.

Short lateral spurs developing on one year old (current season) shoots. Lateral buds are flower buds with terminal vegetative. Occurs in such varieties as 'Butte',<br>'Carrion', 'Fritz', 'Carmel', and 'Merced'. This type<br>accounts in part for potential for precocity and high<br>yields. Full potential requires high vigor conditions to stimulate vegetative growth.



e. TSp - Terminal spur.

Short spurlike shoots produced from the tip of shoots. Flower buds predominate in lateral positions which may or may not produce nuts. Over several years produces a long continuous bare shoot either with either blank nodes or old stem scars. Characteristic of Ripon, Planada and to some extent Tardy Nonpareil. It is not associated with consistently high production.

LATERAL GROWTH. Lateral buds on long terminal shoots give<br>to lateral vegetative shoots. These growths then<br>rentiate lateral flower buds during this second year of II. rise to lateral vegetative shoots. differentiate lateral flower buds development which then flower and fruit during the third year following the emergence of a Type 1 (TS) shoot.

 $a.$  Sp - Spur.

A spur is a short thickened growth usually less than 5<br>inches long bearing 1 to 10 lateral flower buds and a<br>vegetative terminal bud. Grows from a lateral bud on a terminal shoot. Single flower buds develop at each node. If<br>the spur is weak or if there is high fruit set on the spur, the apical bud may not survive and the spur lives only one year.

b. PSp - Pperennial spur.

This structure results when a spur continues to repeat its growth habit in consecutive years from the apical vegetative bud. This pattern may continue for a number of years f the tree is healthy and sufficient vigor is maintained.

LS - Lateral shoots, or hanger,  $\mathbf{c}$ .

This structure results when a lateral vegetative during the second year emerges and continues to grow into a long shoot bearing essentially all single flower buds. Length is arbitrarily < 5 inches but may grow 12 or more inches. This habit is common with certain almond species, (e.g., Prunus fenzliana. P. argentea, etc.) but also occurs with some<br>varieties as Nonpareil when subjected to conditions producing high vigor. This pattern is typically found in many peach varieties after bearing pattern is well established.

III. MX - MIXED. Combination of both terminal and lateral<br>bearing units. Most commercial varieties of almonds have combinations of growth habit. This type of growth habit is<br>advantageous because the terminal shoot bearing habit results in<br>early flower initiation in a young tree, the reversion to the spur habit expands the bearing surface exponentially, and the induction of new growth allows for the continuous renewal of bearing surface as the tree becomes older.