

Global Markets, Trade Policies, and Future Nut Suitability

Almonds, Walnuts, and Pistachios

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Introduction

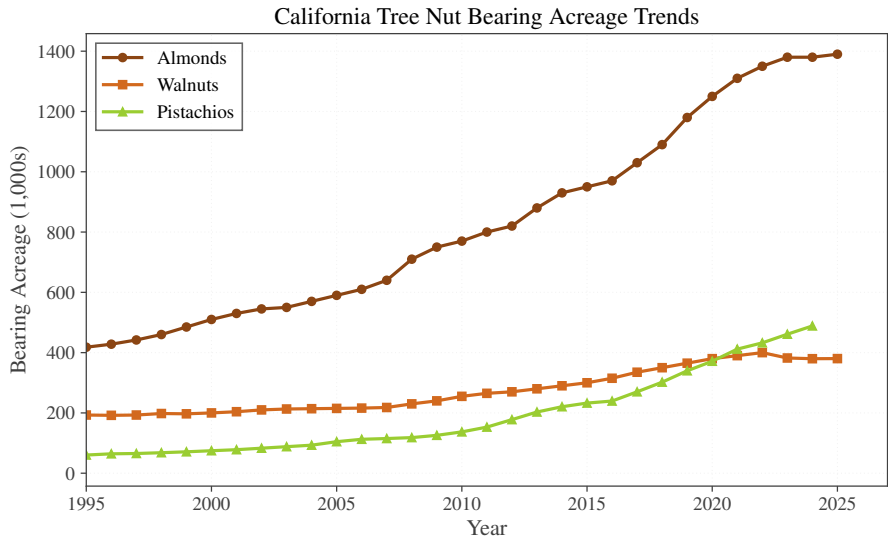
- I am a Cooperative Extension Specialist based in the UC Davis Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics
- My focus is on the Economics of Food Supply Chains in California, with a focus on International Trade, Transport, and Phytosanitary Barriers to Trade
- I obtained my Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from UC Berkeley in 2023, where I specialized in Agriculture and International Trade
- **What I am not:** An expert on tree nuts!

Roadmap

1. **Market Report for CA Tree Nuts: Acreage, Production, Export Trends**
2. **Global Markets and Trade Policies**
3. **Future Nut Suitability**

1. Market Report

Bearing Acreage Trends: Almonds, Pistachios, Walnuts



Sources: Land IQ, USDA NASS, Administrative Committee for Pistachios

Almonds

Almond Acreage Overview (2025)

Standing Acreage:

- Bearing: 1,401,097 acres
- Non-bearing: 104,900 acres
- Total standing: 1,505,997 acres

Acreage Changes:

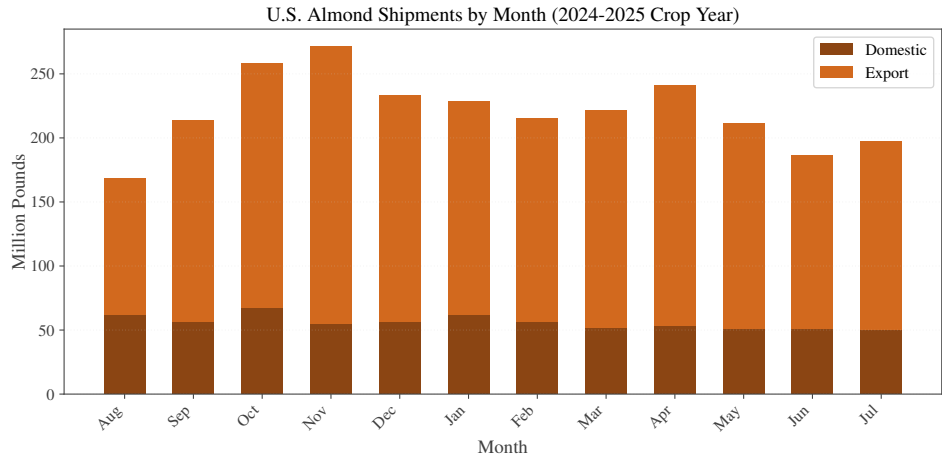
- Removed acreage: 19,927 acres
- New plantings declining
- Peak acreage likely passed

Production (2024-25):

- Total shipments: 2.65 billion lbs
- Domestic: 671 million lbs (25%)
- Export: 1.98 billion lbs (75%)

Source: LandIQ 2025 Standing Almond Acreage Report

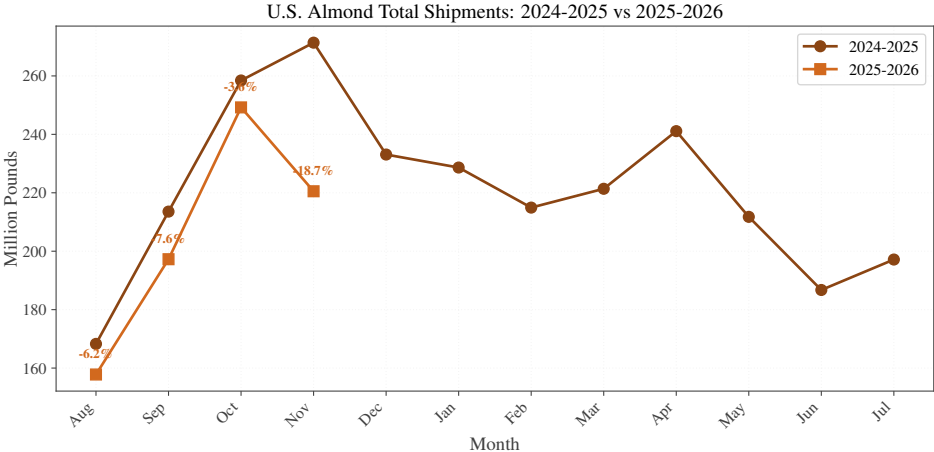
Almond Shipments by Month (2024-25)



Source: Almond Board of California Monthly Position Reports

Total = Shelled + Manufactured + Products + Inshell

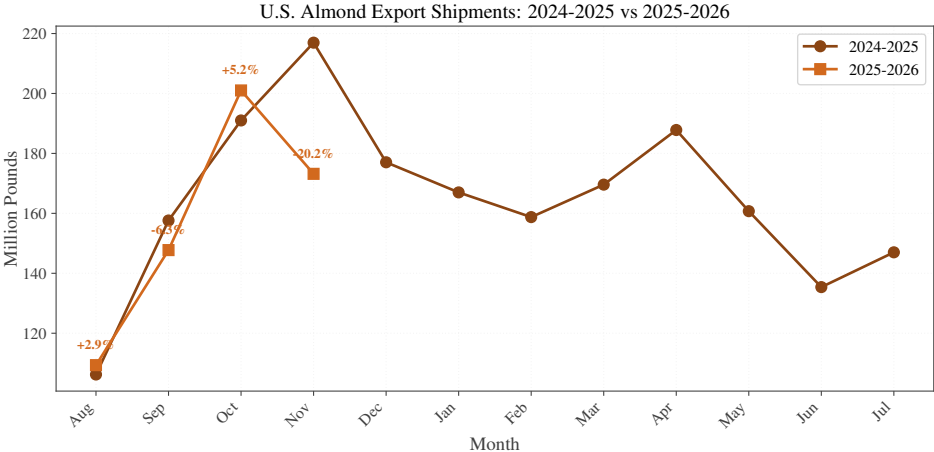
Almond Total Shipments: 2024-25 vs 2025-26



Source: Almond Board of California Monthly Position Reports

Total = Shelled + Manufactured + Products + Inshell

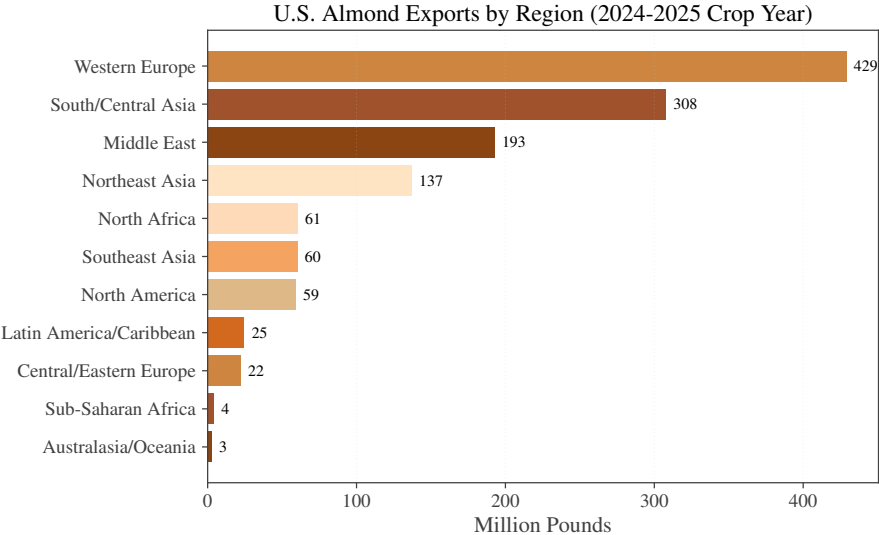
Almond Export Shipments: 2024-25 vs 2025-26



Source: Almond Board of California Monthly Position Reports

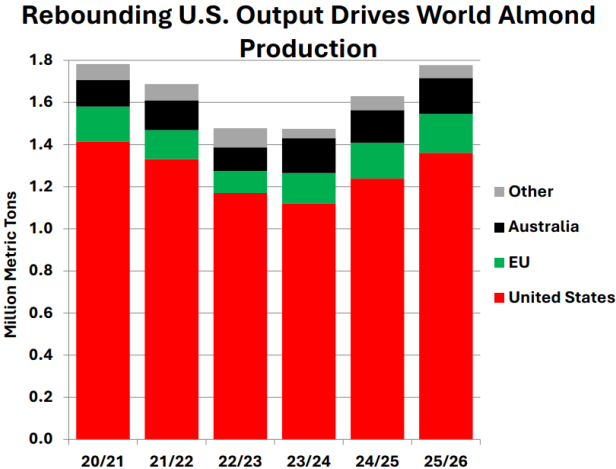
Total = Shelled + Manufactured + Products + Inshell

Almond Export Markets (2024-25)



Source: Almond Board of California Monthly Position Reports

Global Almond Supply Patterns



Global almond production in 2025/26 is forecast to rise nearly 10 percent to 1.8 million metric tons (tons) shelled basis primarily due to increased output in the **United States**, and to a lesser extent the **European Union** and **Australia**. If realized, this would be the highest level of output since 2020/21. U.S. production is forecast up 122,000 tons to 1.4 million, mainly due to higher yields as mild spring temperatures and rain supported nut growth. European Union output is expected to increase on higher yields in **Spain** on favorable growing conditions, partially offset by lower output and yields in **Italy**.

Almond Market Summary (2024-25)

- **Total shipments:** 2.65 billion lbs
- **Domestic:** 671 million lbs (25.4%)
- **Export:** 1.98 billion lbs (74.6%)
- **Top export regions:**
 - Western Europe: 429 million lbs
 - South/Central Asia (India): 308 million lbs
 - Middle East: 193 million lbs
 - Northeast Asia: 137 million lbs
- Global ending stocks fell to a low in 2024/25 of 283,570 MT (shelled), as of Oct 2025: 364,019

Source: Almond Board of California Monthly Position Reports, USDA FAS

Walnuts

Walnut Acreage Overview (2025)

Standing Acreage:

- Bearing: 380,205 acres
- Non-bearing: 14,100 acres
- Total standing: 394,305 acres

Acreage Changes:

- Producing bearing: 370,963 acres
- Stressed orchards: 9,242 acres
- Acreage decline since 2022

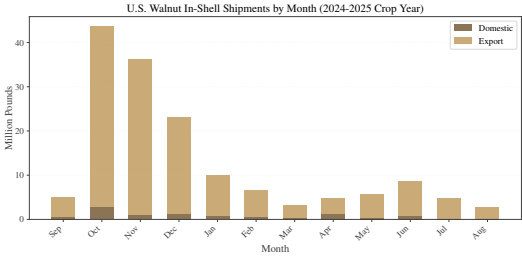
Key Trends:

- Peak acreage 2022 (400k acres)
- Declining new plantings
- Water stress driving removals

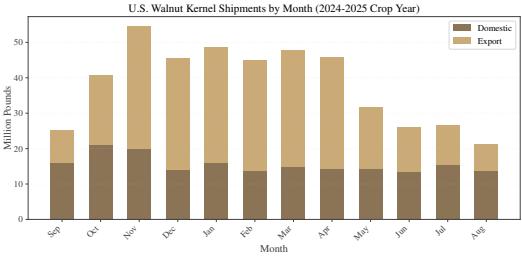
Source: Land IQ 2025 Final Walnut Acreage Report

Walnut Shipments by Month (2024-25)

In-Shell



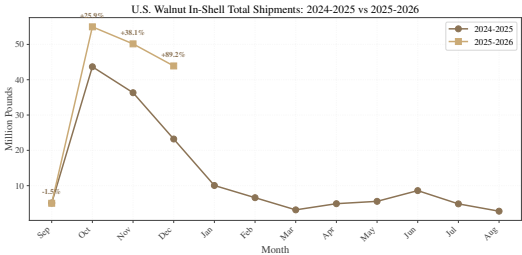
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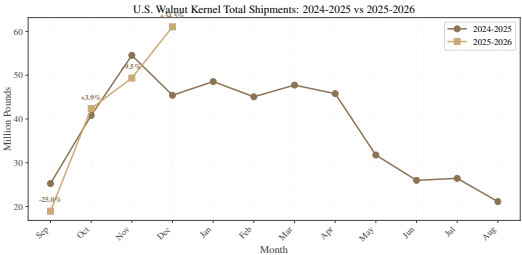
Source: California Walnut Board Monthly Shipment Reports

Walnut Total Shipments: 2024-25 vs 2025-26

In-Shell



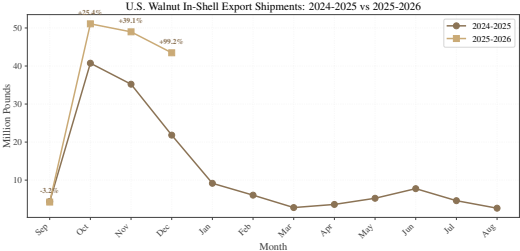
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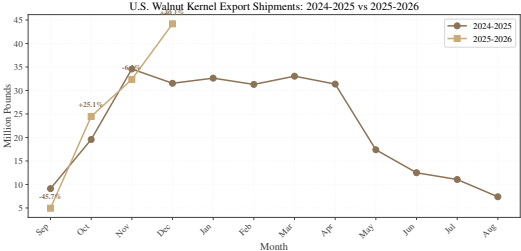
Source: California Walnut Board Monthly Shipment Reports

Walnut Export Shipments: 2024-25 vs 2025-26

In-Shell



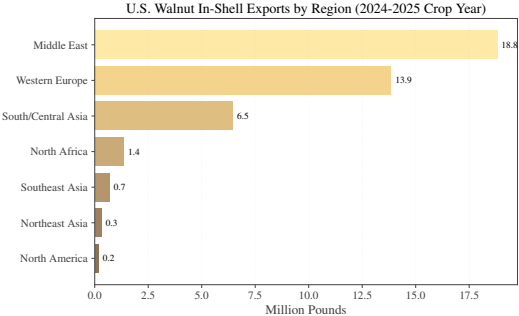
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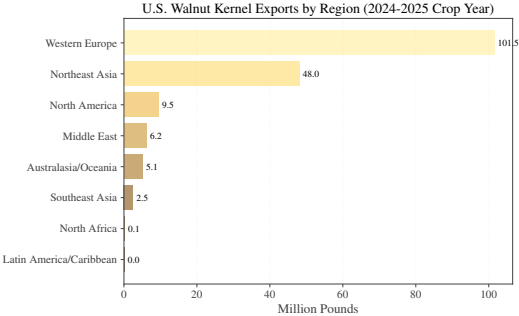
Source: California Walnut Board Monthly Shipment Reports

Walnut Export Markets (2024-25)

In-Shell



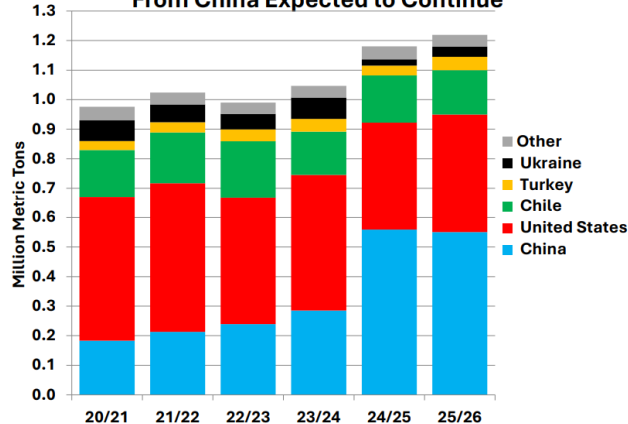
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Source: California Walnut Board Monthly Shipment Reports

Global Walnut Supply Patterns

Record Walnut Exports Forecast as Elevated Shipments
From China Expected to Continue



World walnut production is forecast to gain 3 percent to 2.7 million tons in-shell basis on rebounding **U.S.** output as top producer **China** remains unchanged. Despite a slight reduction in U.S. area harvested, output is expected nearly 100,000 tons higher to 644,000 on increased nuts per tree following favorable growing conditions. China's production is projected unchanged at 1.6 million tons as higher yields in Xinjiang province are offset by lower yields in Yunnan, Shanxi, and Shaanxi provinces.

Walnut Market Summary (2024-25)

In-Shell: 155 million lbs

- Domestic: 11 million lbs (7%)
- Export: 144 million lbs (93%)
- Top regions: Middle East (19M), W. Europe (14M), S/C Asia (6.5M)

Kernel: 459 million lbs

- Domestic: 187 million lbs (41%)
- Export: 271 million lbs (59%)
- Top regions: W. Europe (102M), NE Asia (48M), N. America (9.5M)

Combined Total: 613 million lbs

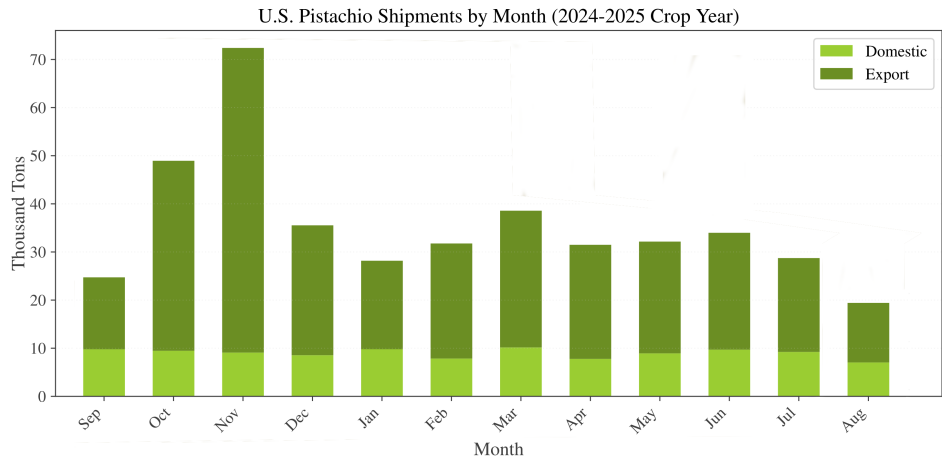
Market challenges:

- China tariffs 50-60% (after exclusion expiry)
- Competition from Chinese walnuts in EU

Source: California Walnut Board Shipment Reports

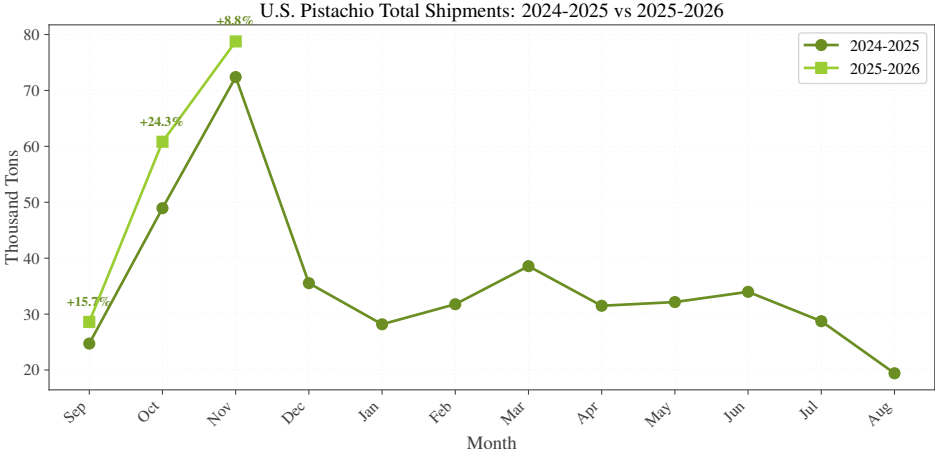
Pistachios

Pistachio Shipments by Month (2024-25)



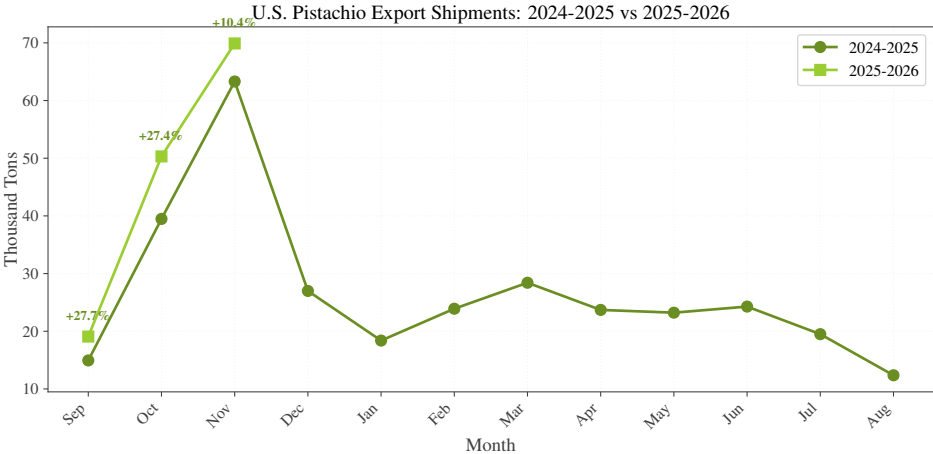
Source: Administrative Committee for Pistachios Shipment Reports

Pistachio Total Shipments: 2024-25 vs 2025-26



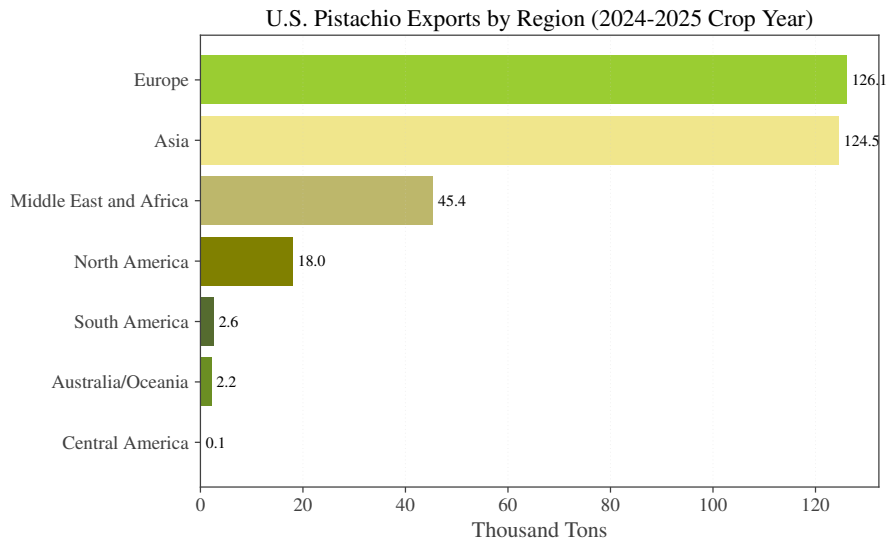
Source: Administrative Committee for Pistachios Shipment Reports

Pistachio Export Shipments: 2024-25 vs 2025-26



Source: Administrative Committee for Pistachios Shipment Reports

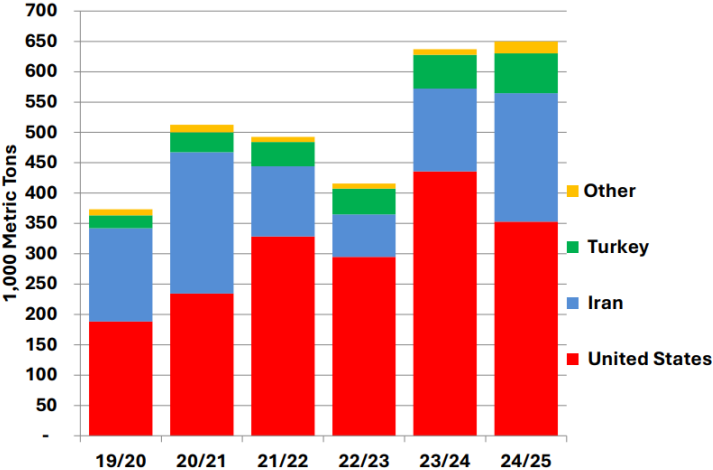
Pistachio Export Markets (2024-25)



Source: Administrative Committee for Pistachios Shipment Reports

Global Pistachio Supply Patterns

Record World Pistachio Exports Reached



Global pistachio production for 2024/25 expanded 10 percent to a record 1.2 million tons in-shell basis as harvests in **Turkey**, **Iran**, and **Syria** entered the on-year of the alternate bearing crop cycle, more than offsetting lower output from the U.S. off-year crop.

Pistachio Market Summary (2024-25)

- **Total shipments:** 426,000 tons (852 million lbs)
- **Domestic:** 107,000 tons (25.2%)
- **Export:** 318,500 tons (74.8%)
- **Top export regions:**
 - Asia: 72,500 tons (China, Hong Kong, Vietnam)
 - Europe: 27,900 tons (Germany, Spain, Italy)
 - Middle East & Africa: 12,300 tons
- Global ending stocks in October 2025: 269,089MT (in-shell), historical high

Source: Administrative Committee for Pistachios Shipment Reports

Trade Policies and the Global Outlook

Tariff Changes on U.S. Almonds (2025)

- **India**

- Base tariff: \$400/MT (in-shell), \$1,142/MT (shelled)
- Retaliatory tariffs lifted Sept 2023 - currently at base rates
- GST reduced from 12% to 5% (late 2025)

- **European Union**

- Low MFN tariff: 5.6% (in-shell), 3.5% (shelled)
- No retaliatory tariffs apply; stable access

- **China**

- MFN tariff: 10% + retaliatory tariffs up to 35%
- Tariff exclusion program expires Dec 13, 2025
- Without renewal: effective rate could reach 45%+

Tariff Changes on U.S. Pistachios (2025)

- **China**

- MFN tariff: 5% + retaliatory tariffs up to 35%
- Tariff exclusion program expires Dec 13, 2025
- Without renewal: effective rate could reach 40%+

- **European Union**

- Very low MFN tariff: ~1.6%
- No retaliatory tariffs; stable market access

- **Turkey**

- High MFN tariff: 43.2%
- 10% retaliatory tariff lifted Sept 2025 (now 43.2% total)
- Turkey's 2025 crop shortfall (–80%) eased import restrictions

Tariff Changes on U.S. Walnuts (2025)

- **European Union**

- Low MFN tariff: 4–5% (stable, no changes)

- **Turkey**

- MFN tariff raised to 15% (Oct 2023, still in effect)
- 10% retaliatory tariff lifted Sept 2025 (now 15% total)
- Additional Financial Responsibilities fees: \$406/MT (in-shell)

- **South Korea**

- KORUS FTA: in-shell walnut tariff reached 0% on Jan 1, 2026
- All U.S. walnuts now duty-free in Korea

- **China**

- MFN tariff: 25% (in-shell), 20% (shelled) + 25% retaliation
- Tariff exclusion expires Dec 13, 2025; rates could reach 50–60%

U.S. Bilateral Trade Deals: SE Asia & Switzerland

- **Almonds**

- Vietnam: No FTA; MFN tariff 20% (in-shell), 15% (shelled)
- Switzerland: EFTA member; bilateral ag discussions ongoing but limited

- **Pistachios**

- Vietnam: Growing market; MFN tariff 15% (no preferential access)
- Switzerland: Low MFN tariffs (~2%); minor market

- **Walnuts**

- Vietnam: MFN tariff 22% (in-shell), 18% (shelled)
- Switzerland: MFN tariff 4–8%; stable but small volumes

- **Key limitation:** U.S. bilateral deals are narrow in scope, which contrast with multilateral agreements like EU-Mercosur (pending) that cover broader ag market access and investment across multiple countries

Competitor Developments: Australia Almonds (2025)

- **India - ECTA Advantage**

- 50% lower tariff on Australian almonds (34,000-ton quota)
- Australia pays ~17.5% vs. 35% for U.S. almonds
- Significant cost advantage in India's growing market

- **China - Tariff-Free Access**

- Australian almonds enter China duty-free (China–Australia FTA)
- U.S. almonds face ~45% tariff (after June 2025 relief)
- Australia became China's top almond supplier in 2025

- **Result**

- Australian almond exports forecast at record 143,000 MT (2025/26)
- Trade policies widening competitive gap vs. U.S.

Competitor Developments: Iran & Turkey Pistachios (2025)

- **Iran**

- EU: New aflatoxin controls (March 2025), but access maintained
- Canada: Import ban (Sept 2025) due to Salmonella outbreaks
- EAEU FTA (May 2025): Tariffs drop from 20% to 4.5% in Russia
- China imports of Iranian pistachios up 50%+ in 2024/25

- **Turkey**

- 2025 crop collapsed 80% (frost + alternate bearing)
- Sept 2025: Import restrictions eased; pest risk analysis waived
- Sept 2025: Retaliatory tariffs on U.S. pistachios removed
- Turkey shifted from exporter to net importer in 2025

- Iran gained EAEU access; Turkey's absence eased global competition

Competitor Developments: Chile & China Walnuts (2025)

- **Chile**

- New market access: Indonesia approved Chilean walnuts (March 2025)
- India challenge: U.S. retaliatory tariff removed (2023) → U.S. exports doubled
- EU competition: Chinese walnuts capturing market share

- **China**

- Surging exports: 320,000 MT in 2024 (+23% YoY), trend continuing
- EU: Chinese shelled walnuts up 3.7× (Jan–Sept 2025)
- China now #2 walnut supplier to EU (behind U.S., ahead of Chile)
- VAT rebates (13%) and no export taxes support competitiveness

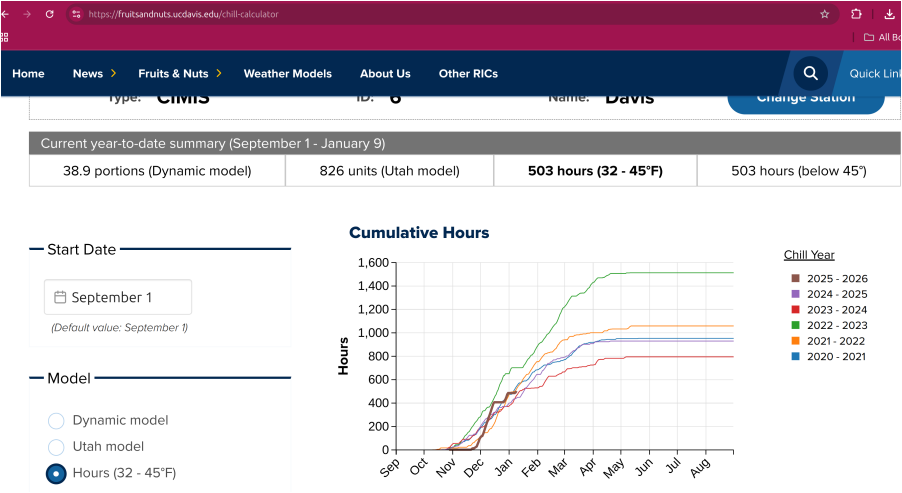
- U.S. walnuts face intensifying competition from China's low-cost exports in EU and Asia

3. Future Nut Suitability

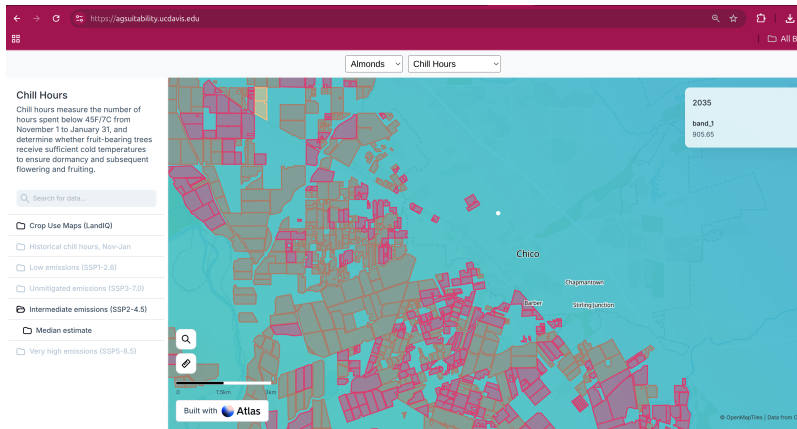
Future Nut Suitability: New Decision Tool for Growers

- Growing conditions across California are changing
- To understand this, we develop a web platform providing localized, actionable long-run weather predictions
- **Current variables:**
 - Chill hours — critical for nut tree dormancy break and bloom timing
 - Winter Precipitation
- **Key features:**
 - Quickly locate projections at any given address in California
 - *Actionable* insights for planning variety selection

Chill Hour Accumulation (Historical)



Ag Suitability Platform



Scan to visit the site
Sayre and Ganapathi
(2026)

<https://agsuitability.ucdavis.edu>

Example output from the Ag Suitability platform showing projected chill hour accumulation

Thank You

- Questions?
- Please contact me at:
- Email: jsayre@ucdavis.edu or Phone: 530-752-8776

I'd love to hear your feedback:

<https://forms.gle/x9E4bQeWVDdWWXGH8>



Scan to take the survey