

Standards and grades

USDA grades for natural almonds are voluntary minimum standards. The California Almond industry can supply almonds to customers' unique specifications, both in terms of sizes and grades, based on the intended applications.

USDA GRADES

USDA Grades (Effective 3/24/97)	Whole Kernels	Minimum Diameter (in in.)	Dissimilar	Doubles	Chip & Scratch	Foreign Material	Particles & Dust	Split & Broken	Other Defects	Serious Defects	Undersize
US Fancy	—	—	5%	3%	5%	.05%	.1%	1%	2%	1%	—
US Extra No. 1	—	—	5%	5%	5%	.05%	.1%	1%	4%	1.5%	—
US No. 1 (Supreme)*	—	—	5%	15%	10%	.05%	.1%	1%	5%	1.5%	—
US Select Sheller Run	—	—	5%	15%	20%	.1%	.1%	5%	3%	2%	—
US Standard Sheller Run	—	—	5%	25%	35%	.2%	.1%	15%	3%	2%	—
US No. 1 Whole & Broken	30%	20/64 UOS†	5%	35%	x	.2%	.1%	x	5%	3%	5%
US No. 1 Pieces	x	8/64	x	x	x	.2%	1%	x	5%	3%	5%

* US No. 1 is commonly referred to by industry as Supreme. However, Supreme is not a USDA grade.

† UOS = Unless Otherwise Specified

X	No limit established.
	Also included in "Other Defects."
	Includes max. 2% under 20/64 inch.
	Includes max. 5% under 20/64 inch. % also included in "Chip & Scratch."

1 US ton = .907 metric ton
1 metric ton = 2,204.6 pounds
1 pound = 453.6 grams
10 oz. = 283.5 grams

Sample Sizes (pounds)

Lot Size	10,000	10,000–44,000	>44,000
Grams Drawn	2,000	4,000	6,000
Grams Analyzed	1,000	2,000	3,000

CALCULATION OF GRADING PERCENTAGES [Example]

$$\% \text{ [Dissimilar Kernels]} = \frac{\text{Weight of [Dissimilar Kernels] (g)} \times 100}{\text{Weight of Total Sample (g)}}$$

For additional information on USDA grades and standards, see the USDA website: www.ams.usda.gov/standards/almonds.pdf






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* Based on official documents from Almond board of California, for additional information about this organization, studies and different researches visit: <http://www.almonds.com>

MAJOR CALIFORNIA ALMOND VARIETIES

variety	CHARACTERISTICS		CLASSIFICATION			
	LONG & FLAT	SHORT & PLUMP/ROUND	CALIFORNIA TYPE	MISSION TYPE	NONPAREIL	IN-SHELL HARD SHELL
NONPAREIL (NP)  <p>SHELL Soft shell, light color, high suture opening</p> <p>NUT Medium, flat shape, smooth surface</p>	●				●	
CARMEL (CR)  <p>SHELL Soft shell, good shell integrity, fair suture opening</p> <p>NUT Medium, narrow shape, slightly wrinkled surface</p>	●		●			
BUTTE (BT)  <p>SHELL Semi-hard shell, light color, smooth surface, low suture opening</p> <p>NUT Small, short plump shape, wrinkled surface</p>		●	●	●		
PADRE (PD)  <p>SHELL Hard shell, good shell integrity, no suture opening</p> <p>NUT Small, short wide shape, wrinkled surface</p>		●	●	●		
MISSION (MI)  <p>SHELL Hard shell, good shell integrity, no suture opening</p> <p>NUT Small, short wide shape, dark brown, deeply wrinkled surface</p>		●		●		






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MAJOR CALIFORNIA ALMOND VARIETIES

variety	CHARACTERISTICS		CLASSIFICATION			
	LONG & FLAT	SHORT & PLUMP/ROUND	CALIFORNIA TYPE	MISSION TYPE	NONPAREIL	IN-SHELL HARD SHELL
MONTEREY (MT)  <p>SHELL Hard shell, smooth surface, low suture opening</p> <p>NUT Large, long narrow shape, deeply wrinkled surface</p>	●		●			
SONORA (SN)  <p>SHELL Soft shell, dark brown color, rough surface, high suture opening</p> <p>NUT Large, long narrow shape, light color, smooth surface</p>	●		●			
FRITZ (FR)  <p>SHELL Semi-hard shell, good shell integrity, low suture opening</p> <p>NUT Small, medium plump shape, fairly wrinkled surface</p>		●	●	●		
PRICE (PR)  <p>SHELL Soft shell, dark brown color, rough surface, high suture opening</p> <p>NUT Small, short narrow shape, fairly wrinkled surface</p>	●		●			
PEERLESS (PL)  <p>SHELL Hard shell, good shell integrity, smooth surface, no suture opening</p> <p>NUT Medium, wide shape, fairly wrinkled surface</p>	●		●			●

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