



October 5, 2009

**MERIDIAN
NUT GROWERS**
DRIED FRUITS - NUTS

MERIDIAN MONITOR

MARKET NEWS AND INDUSTRY INFORMATION FOR MERIDIAN'S VALUED CUSTOMERS

In a nutshell...

- Pistachio market remains firm
- Almond market firming
- Walnut market unsettled

Pistachio Update

Market remains firm on the news the crop is lighter than expected. Growers have started re-shakes, so probably by end of next week we will have a fair idea of what the actual crop will be this year.

Almond Update

Market is quiet in the EU. Pricing on Carmel's has firmed, while Nonpareils have softened. Small sized almonds continue to be hard to find.

Current pricing for NP around USD \$2.20-2.30/lb depending on size; Carmel from USD \$1.70-1.80/lb; also subject to size; BV Std 5% at USD \$1.25/lb.

Walnut Update

Market is unsettled at this time. Big difference between domestic, EU and Asian pricing. Most of Europe is waiting to sell what the largest retailer in Europe buys on Monday to determine off take into EU.

Light material will be in short supply meaning market for this material will probably strengthen through the year. This may mean additional quantities of combination material available for the domestic market.

Most buyers purchasing through January and holding off to see what happens during Christmas season.



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