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**Blue Diamond Growers Issues 2026 Almond Crop Estimate**

*Cooperative shares early-season outlook and on-the-ground insights to help inform growers and industry stakeholders amid evolving reporting landscape*

**SACRAMENTO, Calif., May 8, 2026** – Blue Diamond Growers, the world’s largest almond cooperative, released its 2026 almond crop estimate today at 2.69 billion pounds, falling between a total estimated range of 2.675 to 2.72 billion pounds. This estimate reflects early-season observations and data across California’s Central Valley, along with direct input from its nearly 3,000 grower-members. The [report](#) outlines the factors that inform the crop range and will guide the outlook as the season progresses.

With the changes made to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s almond crop estimates, Blue Diamond is providing a scenario-based range intended to help stakeholders plan for the season ahead. The cooperative’s estimate is grounded in field-level observations, historical performance data, and structured feedback gathered across varieties and counties.

“Crop estimating is never a single-number exercise—conditions can vary dramatically by region, variety, and orchard management,” said Mel Machado, chief agricultural officer of Blue Diamond Growers. “By sharing a range and the inputs behind it, we aim to provide a practical, early framework that reflects what our team is seeing in the field and hearing directly from growers.”

“Our cooperative was built to bring stability and market access for California almond farming families,” said Jeff Hatfield, chief global supply officer of Blue Diamond Growers. “Providing a clear, data-informed outlook supports better planning and helps reduce surprises that can create unnecessary volatility for growers and customers alike.”

Blue Diamond noted that in-season conditions including heat events, pest pressure, water availability, and orchard investment decisions, can materially influence final receipts. The cooperative expects to continue sharing crop and market updates and will refine its outlook as additional information becomes available throughout the season.



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### **About Blue Diamond Growers®**

Blue Diamond Growers is the world's leading almond cooperative representing nearly 3,000 of California's almond growers. Established in 1910, it created the California almond industry and opened world markets for almonds. Blue Diamond is dedicated to delivering the benefits of almonds around the world and does so by providing high-quality almonds, almond ingredients, and branded products. Headquartered in Sacramento, the company employs approximately 1,400 people throughout its processing plants, receiving stations and gift shops. To learn more about Blue Diamond Growers, visit [www.BlueDiamond.com](http://www.BlueDiamond.com) and follow the company on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).