

NUTS

ALMONDS

Approximately 55% of Australian almonds are produced in the Mildura Region, which is at the forefront of rapid industry growth. Production will double in the coming years, as newly planted trees mature. A dry climate and irrigation-on-demand create a product which enjoys an enviable international reputation.

Almonds are considered one of the most stable horticultural industries, and enjoy strong investor confidence, with healthy returns per acre. This is reflected in large scale development, particularly at Boundary Bend near Robinvale. 20% of almonds are exported to India, Asia and Europe. Overseas markets are expected to expand as yields increase.

VARIETALS

Approximately half of the region's almond plantations comprise the variety "Nonpareil" (Californian Paper Shell). For pollination purposes, the other 50% are made up largely of "Carmel", "Peerless" and "Price" varieties.

Almonds are reliant on the honey bee industry for pollination.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Large almond plantations have been established at Boundary Bend, which is home to Australia's largest orchards. Almonds are also grown at Nangiloc/Colignan, Cardross and Lindsay Point.

PROCESSING FACILITIES

Hulling and Shelling Plants – Select Harvests, Boundary Bend (Vic); Laragon, Lindsay Point (Vic), Simarloo, Lyrup (SA)

Grading, Processing & Packing – Select Harvests, Euston (NSW); Almond Co, Renmark (SA); Riverland Almonds, Loxton (SA).

CONTACTS

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PISTACHIOS

Australian Pioneer Pistachio Company (APPC) is at the heart of the Australian Pistachio industry. APPC's new \$2.5 million processing plant at Robinvale handles 97% of the national crop. Commercial growing commenced in the 1980s, and yields began to increase in the 1990s. Most pistachios produced are sold direct to supermarkets.

VARIETALS

Most pistachios grown in the region are the variety "Sirora", which was developed by the CSIRO at Merbein for Australian conditions. Other varieties are present only in small numbers, with the Californian "Kerman" the most significant.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Most Australian Pistachios are grown in the Murray Valley. The largest plantings in the Mildura Region are located close to the processing facility at Robinvale, with others in the Nangiloc area.

PROCESSING FACILITIES

Hulling, drying, sorting and sale – Australian Pioneer Pistachio Company (APPC), Robinvale (Vic).

CONTACTS

Pistachio Growers Association Inc.

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Product	*Hectares (Ha)	Mildura Region production (t)	Mildura Region value (\$A million)	Mildura Region % of Australian production	Mildura Region % of Australian value
Almonds	4,250Ha	5,500t – 04 *Almond Board of Australia	\$33m – 04	55%	55%
Pistachios	180Ha	450t – 03 *Australian Pioneer Pistachio Company	\$3.6m – 03	41%	41%

* Hectares provided by 2003 SunRISE 21 Crop Report should not be used in correlation with the production volume listed above as the hectares provided refer to different regions - please refer to the 2003 SunRISE 21 Crop Report for further details regarding the geographical areas.