

# **Almond Variety: Kester**

#### Kester

'Kester' is a fully cross-compatible pollenizer for 'Nonpareil' and other California varieties. This cultivar yields 4-17% lower than 'Nonpareil'. 'Kester' has a lower than average number of twin, doubled, and shriveled kernels, and is very well sealed. Evaluators note that the 'Kester' seedcoat is similar to that of the variety 'Carmel'.



Nonpareil

### **Pomological Traits**

**Kester** 

Growth Habit:	Upright
Tree Vigor:	Vigorous
Flowering Time:	Nonpareil +5 days
S Compatibility Genotype:	Not self compatible
Pollination:	Cross compatible with Nonpareil and many other
	California varieties
Light Interception:	1% less than Nonpareil
Length of Flowering:	Average
Harvest Season:	Hull split between 1 and 4 days after Nonpareil

#### **Commercial Traits**

Nut Shape:	Similar to Nonpareil
Kernel Size:	Medium-sized
Kernel Shape:	Ovate
Crackout Percentage:	56%
Shell Sealing:	Well sealed, more than 90%
Double Kernels:	Low- less than 3%
Twin Kernels:	Low - less than 5%
Kernel Appearance:	Medium color with deep wrinkles

#### **Overall Assessment**

'Kester' is a pollenizer for 'Nonpareil' and many other California varieties. It yields comparably to 'Nonpareil', with yields 4-17% lower than Nonpareil in University of California regional variety trials, depending upon orchard location and management. 'Kester' is a very well-sealed variety, with correspondingly low NOW damage. Trees are upright to spreading and moderately vigorous, being about 90% of Nonpareil size at maturity. Evaluators note that 'Kester' is timed well to be a pollenizer for 'Butte'. 5/26/2021

This variety is part of the 2014 Regional Almond Variety Trial planting and has been evaluated for horticultural and nut quality characteristics in Butte, Stanislaus and Madera counties supported by the Almond Board of California and managed by UC Davis and UC ANR, in collaboration with the Fruit and Nut Center.





University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Cooperative Extension



## Key Points

- Fully cross-compatible with 'Nonpareil' and other California cultivars
- Very well sealed
- Good bloom overlap with Butte

#### **Kester Development**





