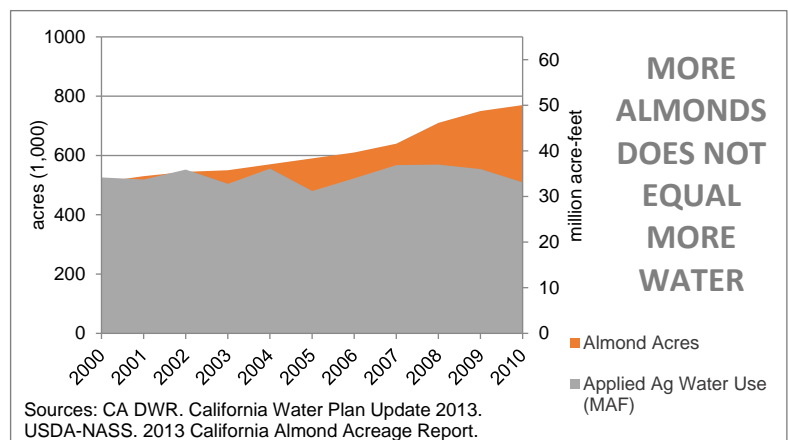
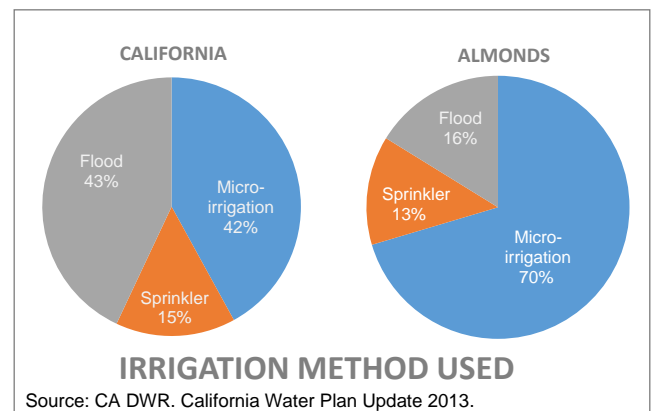
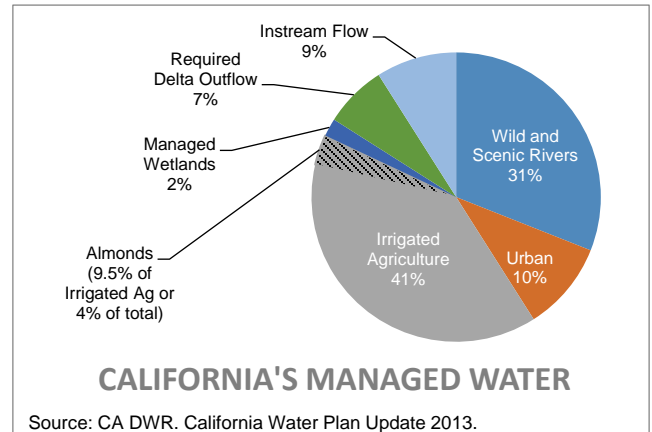


ALMONDS & WATER 101

Know the Facts about California Almonds, Agriculture and Water Use

- According to the California's Department of Water Resources, **agriculture uses 41 percent of California's total water supply – not 80 percent as often quoted.**¹
- **All food takes water to grow and almond trees use about the same amount of water as most other California fruit and nut trees.**² What's more, almond orchards grow four products – all of which are put to beneficial use. In addition to the kernel we eat, almond hulls and shells are used for livestock feed and bedding. Almond trees are recycled at the end of their productive lives to create alternative energy or improve soil quality.
- Some have suggested that the shift towards higher value, perennial crops have led to an increase in agricultural water use. But according to the [Department of Water Resources](#), **the total amount of agricultural water has held steady since 2000 and actually declined over a longer period.** Meanwhile, the value per gallon has increased.³
- Almond growers have adopted efficiency measures above average for California farmers. To date **70 percent of almond growers use microirrigation systems** and **more than 80 percent use demand-based irrigation scheduling.**⁴ Over the past two decades, we've reduced the amount of water needed to grow a pound of almonds by 33 percent, thanks in part to these advancements.⁵
- **Of the almond acreage planted in the last 10-15 years, 96% lies within the Central Valley's historic irrigated area.**⁶ Nearly a quarter of almond orchards planted during that time were almond orchard replants. Other almond acreage planted replaced both perennial and annual crops like cotton, grapes and alfalfa.⁷



To learn more about almonds and water, visit Almonds.com/Water.

¹California Department of Water Resources. [California Water Plan Update 2013](#): Volume 1. Oct. 2014.

²Larry Schwankl, et al. Understanding your Orchard's Water Requirements. University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Pub. 8212. Feb. 2010.

³California Department of Water Resources. [California Water Plan Update 2013](#): Volume 4. Feb. 2015.

⁴California Almond Sustainability Program. Jan. 2014.

⁵University of California. [UC Drought Management](#). Feb. 2010. UN FAO. [Irrigation and Drainage Paper 66](#). 2012. Almond Board of California. [Almond Almanac](#) 90-94, 00-14.

⁶Land IQ. Historic Irrigation Extent Analysis. Mar. 2016.

⁷Land IQ. Previous Crop Analysis. Feb. 2016.