

# The Almendro Poem

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There once was a farmer named Almendro. He lived not in the big city, but on a ranch where much of the world's crops grew. The beautiful place, found in California, was known as the Great Central Valley ...

The best crops grow there, some in orchards, some in rows, wherever an abundance of water flows.

Stretching 500 miles, the farmland you see, is very important to California's economy.

With winter over, there is much to be done, as the valley orchards welcome the sun.

Almendro will soon pursue many bees to pollinate his thousands of almond trees.

Soft pink and white petals will later appear, as the work of the bees are needed each year.

Eventually the petals will fall to the ground, allowing the almond kernels to grow big and round,

With their fuzzy green shells known as a hull, life for Almendro is never dull.

As the almonds continue to grow and grow, the branches become heavy, and start hanging low.

Then the hulls open wide, leaving the kernels to dry inside.

Harvest is soon to begin!

With the orchards clean and clear, Almendro's tree harvest is near.

Using the tree shaker, the nuts will fall, quickly covering the orchard floor.

The sweeper sweeps nuts and picks up from each row, when the hulls are removed, the almonds are ready to go!

Next time you're in the grocery store, Look for almonds in your milk, cereal, candy and more.

Now you know how almonds grow, where they come from and all the places they go.

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