



## Meet California Pear Grower Randy Ruddick

*Redwood Empire Packing, Inc., Ukiah, California*



**Grower:**  
**Randy Ruddick**

**Industry:**  
**Pears**  
**Ukiah, California**



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*-Randy Ruddick*

*Randy Ruddick is a fourth generation grower. He comes from a long lineage of farmers dating all the way back to the 1850s. What his great-grandfather started on a five-acre block of land has grown to a 270 acre operation of which 150 acres is dedicated to growing pears.*

Some of the original trees planted by his predecessors are still bearing fruit and, according to Randy, produce some of the best quality fruit he's ever tasted. "There's nothing cooler than picking a piece of fruit right off a tree and eating it," says Randy. "It's something everyone should experience at least once in their lifetime."

Alongside his parents, sister, and wife and with a helping hand from his teenage daughters, Randy's family grows, harvests, packs and ships a variety of pears including Bartlett, Bosc, and Red Pears. And, while every season presents unique conditions and challenges, there is one thing that remains consistent – the quality of the fruit is blessed by the California sun.

There are only about 40 pear farms left in California and each one is family owned and operated. Randy's hope is that his two daughters will carry on their family's pear farming legacy. "To produce something in the ground that has been in the family for so long is a very special and rare thing," says Randy. "When you buy a California Grown pear you know you're eating a piece of fruit grown with a rich heritage and a lot of heart."

In order to preserve these family farms and support California's economy, Randy notes the importance of buying California Grown produce and products. "I'm a fourth generation farmer and I make a point to buy California Grown because I want to be able to pass along the tradition of our family business to my children."

To learn more about California's pear industry, visit [www.calpear.com](http://www.calpear.com).

