No Blackline Observed in Tulare County  -  R. R. Sanborn, G. S. Sibbett, W. J. Moller

"Blackline" continues to appear as a serious factor affecting longterm walnut orchard productivity in the northern San Joaquin Valley and San Francisco Bay area counties, and concern has been expressed about its possible occurrence in other major walnut-producing areas.

During October 1973, a survey for "blackline" symptoms was conducted in 15 separate locations in Tulare county. Almost 50 mature walnut trees, growing on both black walnut and paradox rootstocks, were examined in detail. Trees selected were generally older trees, showing evidence of decline, and suckering from below the graft union. In selecting sample trees, it was considered by these observers that if the trees had been in the central California walnut counties they would have readily exhibited the definitive "blackline" symptoms at the graft union. However, not one single tree showed this symptom, thus on the basis of this limited survey, there is no evidence at this time to suggest that "blackline" occurs in Tulare county.


Seedlings of Eureka grown from seed supplied by walnut farm advisors in 1972 were top worked with Vina, Chico, Ashley, Serr and Payne by Mr. W. Stuke in the spring of 1973. Further handling of these grafted trees was under Mr. Stuke's direction. He found the grafting to be easily accomplished and lost only one tree. At the time of leaf abscission in the fall of 1973, the trees were in excess of 10 feet in height. The results of this study indicated that J. regia rootstocks are easily grafted and will grow rapidly in the nursery. These grafted trees are being prepared for field testing at three locations.

Rootstock Plot - Crows Landing  -  L. C. Hendricks

The rootstock plot in Crows Landing is a comparison of Northern California Black, Hybrid, and Eureka seedling rootstocks. These trees were planted in 1972 and were grafted in place to Ashley. In January, 1974 the hybrid trees have made excellent growth and are comparable to nursery grafted hybrid trees after the second year of growth. The Eureka seedling trees have made satisfactory growth and most are approximately equal to nursery grafted trees.