Harvest Timing and Walnut Kernel Quality

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For the second year, timing harvest of Payne walnut was directly related to harvest quality. Lightest kernels, most value, and least navel orangeworm infested nuts were found with earliest possible harvest (using Ethrel(R)) when compared to normal harvest timing or a delayed harvest (at normal second picking time). Value per ton decreased from $532 at earliest date to $502 at normal timing and $266 when harvest was delayed. Navel orangeworm infested nuts increased from .5% on the earliest date to 2.6% normal timing and 11.7% delayed.

First year results of these tests were published in Diamond Walnut News and California Agriculture.

Codling Moth and Navel Orangeworm Control

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This experiment was designed to establish the optimum codling moth spray program based on harvest timing and variety of walnuts. Of the varieties evaluated, one year's data indicates that Ashley and Chico walnuts are heavily attacked by both the first and second brood of codling moth; Gustine, Pedro, Marchetti, Serr, and Vina walnuts are moderately attacked by the first brood of codling moth, and of these, Vina is heavily attacked and the remainder are slightly attacked by the second brood of codling moth. Tehama, Hartley and Scharsch Franquette walnuts are slightly attacked by both the first and second brood of codling moth.

Results where first and/or second brood sprays were applied at optimum timing in an Ashley orchard indicated that there is no significant difference in applying both brood sprays or only the second brood spray when a normal two-shake harvest follows. However, when one late harvest takes place, spraying for both broods is significantly better than spraying for only the second brood. There was no significant difference in worm damage between spraying for only the first brood and the untreated check when the normal two-shake harvest followed. However, when one late harvest took place, spraying for only the first brood significantly reduced worm damage over the uncontrolled check.