Blackline - Etiological Studies

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Survey of two commercial orchards in San Joaquin and Yolo Counties revealed that affected trees within the surveyed orchards occurred in groups. The groups of affected trees were randomly distributed within the orchards. Incidence of affected trees in the orchard in San Joaquin County increased from approximately 12% in 1973 to approximately 18% in 1974 blackline affected trees. However, more than 60% of newly affected trees in this orchard were adjacent to previously affected trees. These surveys indicate possible natural spread of the disease although data from larger number of surveyed orchards and observation for several years will be required to conclude on the natural spread of blackline in walnut orchards.

A transmission experiment was established by graft inoculation of six year-old healthy walnut trees with bark patches from naturally affected walnut trees.