TRAINING AND PRUNING

Influence of Hedging on Production & Quality of Mature Payne Walnuts

G. S. Sibbett, D. E. Ramos

In the first year, hedging heavily canopied mature (13 yr. old) Payne walnut trees resulted in significant reductions in dry yield when compared to hand or no pruning. In the succeeding two years production was not significantly reduced although the hedged treatments produced consistently less than the hand or non-pruned treatments. Walnut quality was not affected any year of the test. Work needs to be done testing mechanized pruning vs. hand pruning in young orchards not yet canopied.

This project has been terminated and results published in California Agriculture and Diamond Walnut News.

High Density Planting

W. H. Olson, J. Osgood, D. Ramos, E. Roncoroni

The purpose of this plot is to determine the feasibility of growing walnuts as low profile fruiting walls and to develop information concerning the factors affecting fruitfulness on walnuts. Thus far a five-acre plot has been set up with the Chico variety at spacings of 22 x 22, 22 x 11, and 11 x 11. Training has begun to encourage the information of a fruiting wall.

Walnut Training and Precocity Study

K. Ryugo and D. Ramos

Walnut trees (cv. Chico and Serr) are being trained into low-profile fruiting walls at UCD to explore the possibility of modifying the growth and flowering habits of walnuts by horticultural manipulations and use of growth regulators. The trees are being trained with and without the aid of wire trellises for support. Studies during the first two growing seasons (1974 and 1975) are primarily concerned with increasing bud-break of lateral buds. The role of various factors, including light, on floral initiation are also being investigated. The long-term objective is to determine the commercial feasibility for such high density walnut plantings.