A walnut hedging experiment will begin in the winter of 1974-75 in a block of Ashley walnuts planted at a spacing of 15' X 15' in Modesto. These trees are five years old and are planted on ridges which makes mechanical hedging possible in only one direction. The purpose of this experiment will be to determine whether production can be maintained at a close spacing with hedging and whether the tree size can be controlled through pruning and cropping. Several methods will be tried:

1. No pruning.
2. Hand pruning by the typical modified central leader system.
3. Hedging by hand to simulate machine hedging allowing approximately 5 feet between trees at shoulder level and 8 feet at a height of 15 feet.
4. Summer hedging in May in order to contain the trees without stimulating excessive top growth.

In this experiment we will attempt to hold the trees at the 15' X 15' spacing, but if this is not possible, they may be later thinned to 15' X 30' and a hedgerow will be established.

Evaluations will be made of growth rate, adaptation to close spacing, and yield.

Selective Pruning of Mature Walnut Trees

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Selective groups of fourteen year old Hartley walnut trees were harvested in October, 1974. These trees are now too crowded for continued high production per tree.

Ten trees in each row of 29 rows were harvested in 1974 to determine composite yields. These trees will be selectively pruned in the winter of 1974-75 to reduce crowding and with the objective of maintaining a high rate of production.

From the yield data collected in the fall of 1974, before any thinning has been started, it will be possible to compare future yields of pruned vs. unpruned trees. This trial should provide information on the effects of tree modification (pruned and unpruned trees) upon yields of mature Hartley trees growing under close planted conditions.