Section I

Plant Improvement

Breeding and Variety Evaluation

Walnut Breeding

H. I. Forde and P. E. Hansche

Five crosses were made in 1975 from which we harvested 726 seeds. Seed of the 1974 crosses were planted, 270 trees grew from this seed. There were 118 seedlings from the 1973 crosses these were grafted into the test orchard.

Field notes and nut samples from trees in the test orchard at Davis were gathered and evaluated. Larger samples were also gathered from the variety and selection blocks at Davis, and from test plots in various counties. These samples were graded by Diamond Walnut Growers, Inc.

Five new selections were established in plots in some of the walnut growing areas.

Walnut Variety Testing

L. C. Hendricks

New walnut varieties have been collected from the Walt Hector planting in Vernalis and from Walt Deardorff in Waterford for a number of years. Walt Deardorff has continued to add new numbered selections from the University to his plantings. In Merced County, UC 59-124 and Westside have been collected, in addition to Serr at the J. P. Bunker orchard. In Los Banos, a new test planting of University of California selections has been established. These trees were planted in March of 1974 and grafted thereafter. The varieties under test are the University selections 59-124, 60-119, 63-378, 63-396, 64-57, 64-172, and 64-182. In this orchard the main variety is Serr with Tehama pollinizers.