Ethrel® - Concentrate vs. Dilute Applications

G. S. Sibbett and G. C. Martin

Ethrel® was applied to Marchetti walnut at 3, 4, and 5 pints in either 100 or 300 gallons of water per acre. Percentage nut removal at first and second harvest and nut quality was compared with that of untreated trees. In the first harvest, approximately 66% of the crop was removed from untreated trees, whereas treatments of Ethrel® had 85-95% removal. Nut samples from non-treated trees averaged 21% sticktight, whereas those treated averaged 8%. No obvious differences in quality occurred due to treatment.

Effect of Ethephon on Drying Time

George C. Martin, G. Steven Sibbett, and William Olson

Reports from both research personnel and growers alike have indicated that ethephon treatment prior to harvest resulted in an increase and decrease in drying time. We designed a plot specifically to examine this question. Nuts taken at harvest were individually weighed starting at zero time and at regular intervals until there was no weight change. These nuts were dried at 107°F. The results of this work indicated there was no change in the drying rate of ethephon nuts as compared to control. The wetter the nuts at harvest, the longer it would take the drying cycle to occur.

Walnut Hull Disposal

G. S. Sibbett and J. H. LaRue

During the 1974 walnut harvest an experiment was begun testing effects of continued thin spreading of walnut hulls on fly survival, soil chemistry and growth of three tree crops, walnut, nectarine, and persimmon. In 1974 and 1975, fly populations were almost non-existent in spread hulls, whereas pile hulls readily propagated heavy fly populations. Soil samples from treated and untreated areas are currently being analyzed. No obvious affect on tree growth as yet occurred in any crop.