Section I

Varietal Improvement

Walnut Breeding

P. E. Hansche and H. I. Forde

Six crosses were made in 1976 from which we harvested 318 seeds. Seed from crosses made in 1975 was planted in flats in the greenhouse, 219 trees grew from this seed. There were 155 seedlings, from seed planted in flats in 1975, lined out in the nursery. There were 270 seedlings planted in the test orchard. Four selections from the seedling block were grafted into the selection block.

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 some counties. These samples were graded by Diamond/Sunsweet, Inc.

Pecan Evaluation

G. S. Sibbett, L. Brown, T. Browne, and K. Hench

Interest in pecans as a crop in the San Joaquin Valley is substantial. Since 1971, "new" pecan varieties have been evaluated at locations in Tulare, Kings and Fresno counties. Quality and production has consistently been excellent. Due to an erratic irrigation and cultural program in Fall 1975 and 1976, production at the Tulare location was poor.