SELECTIVE PRUNING OF CLOSE PLANTED ASHLEYS

W. H. Olson and Dave Ramos

A selective pruning vs. no pruning trial was begun this year in a dense Ashley orchard. The aim is to thin out branches by making large cuts allowing light to penetrate to the lower branches and thus rejuvenating fruit production. Pretreatment yields indicate no significant difference in the replicates designated as pruned or nonpruned. Pruned replicates had a yield of 2.45 tons/acre while the nonpruned replicates had a yield of 2.37 tons/acre. The first year pruning of this trial is now under way.

CHEMICAL INDUCEMENT OF LATERAL BUD DEVELOPMENT

George C. Martin and Paul LaVine

Diregulac was applied in May, June or July to 'Payne', 'Ashley', 'Hartley', 'Tehema', 'Franquette', 'Serr' and 'Chico' to induce growth of lateral buds. All cvs responded with increased branching. The most desirable results occurred with May treatments. Some phytotoxicity resulted from excessive concn particularly in the July treatments. This chemical may have use in training of young trees. It remains to be determined if greater nut production occurs on the increased number of limbs produced.