Section V

Harvest

WALNUT QUALITY AND WEIGHT AS AFFECTED BY PREMATURE WALNUT HARVEST

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Popularity of early varieties have concentrated pressure on harvesting and drying equipment. To reduce this pressure, earliest possible harvest was investigated. Effects of prepacking tissue brown harvests on quality and weight were evaluated. Samples from nine harvest timings (August 15 to September 9) spaced at 3 and 4 day intervals were collected and sent to Diamond/Sunsweet for quality analysis. High percent light and total edible kernel reflected the excellent quality of prepacking tissue brown harvests. Hullability and offgrade of the earliest harvests were both very low. Substantial yield reductions occurred when nuts were harvested prepacking tissue brown. Kernel and inshell weights were approximately 20% lower at earliest harvest than at the normal harvest timing September 9.