Section IV

TIME OF FLOWER INITIATION AND DEGREE OF FRUITFULNESS IN 'CHICO',
A PRECOCIOUS WALNUT CULTIVAR
K. Ryugo and David E. Ramos

Leaves were removed from 7 terminal nodes on vigorously growing walnut shoots in July. Buds arising from this portion bore pistillate flowers the following spring whether the treated region was wrapped in aluminum foil or left exposed. The number of dormant buds and those which abscised were greater under the foil than exposed. Removal of mature leaves resulted in less bud abscission. Heading back of 2nd flush growth to basal buds at different times of the year indicated that the flowering stimulus was perceived by these buds within 3 weeks after they were initiated at the shoot apex.

HIGH DENSITY PLANTING
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The purpose of this trial is to determine the feasibility of growing walnuts as low profile fruiting walls and to develop information concerning the factors affecting fruitfulness of walnuts. This five-acre plot was set up with Chico variety walnut trees at spacings of 22x22, 22x11, and 11x11, five replicates of each spacing. After the fourth year the 11x11 spacing became too dense for the use of conventional equipment and was changed to a spacing of 22x11. Fourth-year training has been completed. Future pruning will be done by mechanical hedger on the 22x11 spacings, with one treatment also receiving supplemental hand pruning. The 22x22 spacing will be strictly hand pruned. First-year yield data was taken this year and, as expected, it was directly related to tree numbers.