SECTION V - HARVEST

WALNUT MATURITY STUDY

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An experiment was conducted to investigate the disadvantages of a premature harvest of walnuts. The investigation was begun when packing tissue color was white and was continued until normal commercial harvest date, 21 days later. Nut weight slowly decreased with time due to moisture loss within the kernel. The volume of the mature nut did not change. As packing tissue color turned from white to buff there was an 8.6% gain in kernel dry weight, while another 9.5% increase was recorded as packing tissue turned from buff to brown. The kernel dry weight increased 19% overall during the 21 days as packing tissue color turned from white to brown. Although kernel quality is excellent, net return would suffer substantially, due to loss of dry weight, if harvest is commenced prior to packing tissue brown.

SORTING TRIAL

W. H. Olson

Due to growers' inquiries about the benefits of sorting walnuts after harvest a 10 replicate trial was set up comparing sorted vs. unsorted deliveries. The sorted deliveries were passed across a belt where one person removed stick tight nuts and then passed through an air leg which removed nuts with shriveled kernels or other defects causing them to be light in weight. The unsorted deliveries had no hand or air sorting. The sorted deliveries averaged $134 per ton in increased value over non-sorting. Sorting removed 445 lbs. of walnuts per acre, yet due to increased value, the value per acre of sorted nuts was $140 greater than unsorted nuts. These values are highly significant. The person's time sorting from the belt, trucking cost differences, and cost of running the air leg were not considered in this trial.

WALNUT HULL DISPOSAL

G. S. Sibbett

Adverse affects of continual thin spreading of walnut hulls on soil chemistry and tree growth of nectarine and persimmon have been monitored since 1974. No difference in soil chemistry have been determined between areas treated and untreated. No observable differences in tree growth have been noted.