Considerable effort was expended to publish our work on the influence of light on vegetative growth, floral initiation and nut quality in 'Hartley'. The manuscript has been accepted and should appear in the *Jour. American Society for Horticultural Science* in the spring, 1980. Bruno Manangoni from Bologna is a co-author on the paper.

This work led to the question of whether or not unfruitfulness in certain Serr orchards might not be related to the loss of vigor and shading. In orchards where drop of pistillate flowers was exceptionally heavy, it was noted that the number of catkins per spur was high. Conversely, in blocks where the yield was relatively high, the presence of a nut seemed to cause poor catkin development and their abscission. Hence, the ratio of catkin per node was low.

Pruning and emasculating trials in two 'Serr' blocks are planned to test

a) Can catkin initiation be inhibited or reversed by spacing limbs to improve light penetration and also to invigorate the trees and

b) will the removal of catkins in their early development on protandrous cultivars such as 'Serr' prevent abscission of the pistillate flowers and thereby improve set and yield.

The initial spur sample was collected to examine the effect of catkins on food stored in the wood.