HIGH DENSITY HEDGEROW CHICOS


Chico walnut trees planted in 1974 near Vina in a hedgerow (22'x11') and mechanically pruned yielded significantly more crop than conventionally spaced (22'x22') and hand pruned trees. The 1980 yields (lbs./acre) in this 5-acre replicated experiment were 5378 for 22'x11' spaced trees hedged on both sides, 5395 for 22'x11' spaced trees hedged on one side (alternate year hedging) and 3058 for the 22'x22' conventional trees. Individual tree yields did not differ significantly between treatments, indicating that nut production is still largely a function of tree numbers. The 22'x22' trees were significantly larger than those at 22'x11' on the basis of trunk circumference at the end of the 1980 season. However, the yield efficiency (yield/trunk cross sectional area) was not significantly different. The vertical side hedging of the fruiting wall in the 22'x11' treatments will continue to be made at about 4' from the tree trunks as the new shoot growth (2'-4') in response to last year's pruning appears to be about right.