LONG TERM EFFECT OF TWO SCHEMES OF TREE THINNING ON SERR WALNUT PRODUCTION

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Objective: To evaluate two schemes of temporary tree removal on production and quality of Serr walnut in high density plantings.

Procedure: Three, approximately 30 acre blocks, were used for this evaluation. The blocks were planted in 1971, are all on Paradox rootstock, and are located on the same ranch and obtain the same management input. Our three evaluations include production and quality from an unthinned block, from a block where alternate rows were removed (approximately 45.9% of the trees), and a block where alternate trees in alternate rows (approximately 24.6% of the trees were removed). Tree removal occurred in late winter 1983.

Results: In the first harvest following removal, the unthinned block produced 2900 lbs/Ac (55 lbs/Tree). The block having alternate rows thinned produced 2680 lbs/Ac (89 lbs/Tree) and the block having alternate trees in alternate rows thinned produced 2720 lbs/Ac (65 lbs/Tree). Quality data were not obtained in 1983.

Conclusions: No conclusions can yet be drawn from this observation block.