Estimating the Value of Crop Loss in Commercial Walnut Production
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Crop loss in walnut production has been attributed to a variety of causes including insects, diseases, nematodes, heat damage, and poor cultural practices. Losses also occur during harvest, shelling, storage, and marketing.

Numerous field trials and surveys have been conducted which reveal yield loss when specific pests are not controlled. However, this data is only relevant to the field plot conditions under which treatments are applied. There is little synthesized data showing actual amounts of crop loss at the county, regional, and state levels and among varieties. Such data would facilitate future research planning and prioritization.

During the next several months causes of yield loss under different geographical and varietal conditions will be identified. Available statistics and processor grade sheets will be used to estimate historic loss and trends. A survey of experts, including farm advisors, specialists, and industry personnel will be conducted to obtain educated estimates of the degree of loss due to various causes.

Information from past research trials, grade sheets, and the survey will then be synthesized and dollar losses due to various causes will be ranked for different growing regions and major varieties.