DELAYED HEDGING CHANDLER
HEDGEROW PLANTED WALNUTS
1990

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ABSTRACT

Although not statistically significant unhedged trees out yielded hedged trees by 4.4 pounds/tree or 660 lbs per acre.

OBJECTIVE

In a seven year old Chandler walnut orchard planted at 12x24 feet and hedged for the first time, evaluate any yield difference between hedged and unhedged trees.

PROCEDURE

During the first dormant hedging operation after six years of hand pruning hedge one side of two rows of trees and leave two rows unpruned. Collect yield data in groups of 11 trees and determine at what extent hedging reduced yield.

RESULTS

The hedged one side rows averaged 20.1 pounds of dry nuts per tree (1.52 tons/A) while the unhedged rows averaged 24.5 lbs/tree (1.85 tons/A).

While this seems substantial a paired T test did not reveal any statistically significant difference between treatments. This is because one set of hedged trees actually out yielded the comparison set of unhedged trees.

CONCLUSION

No conclusion can be drawn after only one year. Further results from this trial may reveal that hedging can be delayed a few years to enhance production.

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