TULARE HEDGEROW PRUNING COMPARISON

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ABSTRACT

After imposing a comparison of headed pruning cuts vs. unpruned trees on a vigorous third leaf 'Tulare' hedgerow, there were no significant differences in yield or trunk circumference over a two-year period.

PROCEDURES

In 1994, 10 trees in a vigorous 'Tulare' hedgerow spaced at 24' x 12.5' and planted and grafted in April 1992, were selected to compare pruning vs. no pruning. Ten trees of similar size were paired - on one tree, about 14 shoots were headed 1/3 while the other was left unpruned. No pruning was done on either treatment in 1995. Evaluations were made on trunk circumference and yield.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

There were no significant differences in trunk circumference (Table 1). The trunk circumference increased by 88 percent in the unpruned trees and by 85 percent in the pruned trees between April 1994 and September 1995. There were no significant differences in yield over the two years. 'Tulare' is a vigorous growing variety as a young tree. In a hedgerow situation, it appears no pruning after the second year did not affect tree growth or yield. Thus, it would seem that the depressing effect of insufficient pruning and excessive cropping on tree development, which is associated with most laterally fruitful cultivars, is mitigated by the inherent vigor of young 'Tulare' trees.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Table 1. Trunk circumference (cm) and yield (lbs./tree) for 1994 and 1995.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TREATMENT</th>
<th>April '94 Trunk Circum.</th>
<th>February '95 Trunk Circum.</th>
<th>September '95 Trunk Circum.</th>
<th>1994 Yield</th>
<th>1995 Yield</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNPRUNED</td>
<td>28.8 a</td>
<td>44.7 a</td>
<td>54.1 a</td>
<td>9.5 a</td>
<td>14.0 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRUNED</td>
<td>30.3 a</td>
<td>46.5 a</td>
<td>56.0 a</td>
<td>8.0 a</td>
<td>12.9 a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Means followed by the same letter in a column are not significantly different (LSD P ≤ 0.05)