

New Early Harvesting Walnut Cultivar ‘Ivanhoe’ Released

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A new early harvesting cultivar, “Ivanhoe”, has been developed by the UC Davis Walnut Breeding Program and was released earlier this year. Ivanhoe has a harvest date similar to Payne or Serr, harvesting about a month earlier than Chandler. It is precocious, 100% laterally fruitful, and protogynous (the female flowers open before the males). Ivanhoe leafs out with Payne or Serr, but due to its reversed female and male bloom order, Ivanhoe female bloom is a week earlier. Payne, Ashley or Serr would be suitable pollenizers.

Ivanhoe produces light-colored kernels and exhibits high yields. The nuts are oval with a smooth thin shell. Kernels average 7.7 g and comprise 57% of the nut weight. The tree is only moderately vigorous and is not resistant to walnut blight. The oldest field trials are now in their 10th year.

Ivanhoe, formerly known as UC 95-11-14, was named after the town of Ivanhoe in Tulare County--the site of the first field trial. It is an offspring of a cross made in 1995 between UC67-13 “Chico”.

Walnut nurseries have been notified of the release, licensed, and provided graftwood. Ivanhoe can be purchased from any licensed commercial nursery.

