

Variety comparisons: Ethrel at 500 ppm concentration was applied by handgun sprayer 10 days prior to normal harvest to Payne, Ashley, Serr, Eureka, Marchetti, Midland and Hartley walnuts. In all cases, removal and hullability were improved to the extent 1-shake harvest of 100 percent of the crop was possible. Quality was not affected except in the case of Marchetti where networth per inshell pound was decreased by 6.46¢. Leaf fall was not significant except in the Serr variety (which was not dry) where some interference with harvest was thought to occur.

Applications of Ethrel at 500 ppm to Payne walnut at "packing tissue brown" advanced harvest date, increased percent removal and increased hullability. No effect on nut quality occurred if nuts were harvested 11 days following application, although quality was impaired dramatically if harvest was delayed 22 days following treatment. Applications of Ethrel at 500 ppm to Trinta walnut just prior to packing tissue brown resulted in substantial reduction in quality.