

Walnut Blight Control: F. Perry

Based on past seasons' tests, there is some indication that sprays applied early to protect catkins could be beneficial in highly diseased orchards. In these orchards last season, numerous blight infections occurred on newly emerged catkins, and nutlet infection was most severe in these trees. In orchards which have had little history of disease, catkin infection was almost absent and nutlet infection was minimum. In 1969 tests were conducted in a heavily diseased orchard and at that time there was some indications that a single catkin spray produced results as good as multiple sprays applied during the entire bloom. Precise timing of sprays will depend on weather conditions. However, in severely diseased orchards protection of catkins may be important in addition to the usual pistillate bloom sprays.

Walnut Decline and Soil-Borne Pathogens: D. C. Erwin, J. M. Duniway & W. J. Moller

The problem of walnut decline in northern San Joaquin Valley orchards has been examined in detail over recent years by soils and irrigation specialists. Up until 1971, little attention had been given to possible involvement of soil-borne pathogens (apart from nematodes) and sampling was carried out in several affected orchards during the growing season. No known pathogenic fungi were detected in sampling feeder roots, with one exception: one Stanislaus County tree sampled near the trunk yielded the crown rot fungus Phytophthora cactorum. Other samples consistently yielded various species of Pythium, which is probably a secondary factor in decline.