

WHITEWASH SPRAYS

Sunburn Protection: G. S. Sibbett, C. S. Davis, M. M. Barnes, T. Browne

Nut quality of moderately vigorous Payne walnuts was evaluated in a paired plot comparing trees protected from sunburn with those unprotected. In 15 replications, quality of nuts from trees "whitewashed" with 60 lbs. Sungard plus 2 lbs. Sungard spreader/100 gals. of water was not significantly different from those unprotected. Net worth per inshell pound of walnuts from this trial favored sunburn protection by .7¢ per pound. The treatment was not considered economic.

Walnut Whitewash: T. Browne and L. Brown

In the 1971 Fresno County walnut whitewash study, variations in nut whiteness did not result in measurable quality or value difference. The test trees were of the Payne variety. They were of uniform size of moderate to low vigor. The trial consisted of 4 treatments replicated 12 times. The 4 treatments were made up of 3 grades of whiteness and a check. Variations in whiteness were achieved by selecting commercially available materials which regularly result in varying whiteness. Materials were sprayed by hand from a tower.

The weather remained cool until July 10. Mid- and late-summer temperatures were extremely hot. No aphid honeydew was present.

Immediately after commercial shaking on September 22 nut samples were collected by hand, raking a 12" band from the tree trunk to the skirt periphery in 4 directions. The raked paths resembled a cross with the tree trunk being the center. All nuts in the cross were gathered and mixed. A sub-sample of about 75 nuts was hand-hulled, commercially dried and crack-tested by Diamond Walnut Growers, Inc.

When prices are applied to quality data from the 4 treatments the values generated are approximately equal.