

Walnut Rootstocks: L. Hendricks

In view of the threat of blackline we need trials of Persian seedling stocks. A rootstock plot in the excellent Vernalis loam in Crows Landing has just been established using approximately 100 black walnut seedlings of 3/4 inch diameter compared to 50 seedlings each of hybrid of 3/4 inch diameter and Eureka seedlings from the U.C. Davis campus which are 5/8-3/4 inch diameter.

The blacks are on a 32 ft. square with a black in the middle making a 32 ft. quincunx. Alternate diagonal rows are Eureka seedlings and hybrid. The final planting space is 16 ft. square. These seedlings will be whipgrafted shortly to Ashley.

There is oak root fungus generally distributed in this plot, so the hybrid and Eureka seedlings will be given a test for resistance.

This plot will soon be calipered and in the fall of each year the caliper, shoot growth, and subsequently yield measurements will be taken. When the trees begin to crowd the point that thinning is necessary, a back hoe will be utilized to make root counts in this plot.

There is a rootstock block at the Kearney Horticultural Field Station which was established a number of years ago. This plot has eight different rootstocks including those mentioned above. This plot should be continued by the field station staff in order to give us information on rootstocks under eastside conditions.