

Girdling Trial Yield Data

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During fall 1992, a girdling trial was initiated at the San Diego county site to determine the effect of various girdling times on the flowering and yield of Hass avocado. Girdling times were: November, February, and peak bloom (April). Branches were girdled during the 1992-93 seasons and again during 1993-94. Trees selected for controls had a branch flagged and marked as a control branch (roughly equivalent in size to girdled branches) and received no girdling treatment. Girdled branches were individually harvested and the fruit weighed and counted.

Preliminary harvest results on a per limb basis, when comparing treatment branches only, showed that the November girdling yielded the best results. Figure 1 shows cumulative harvest data per tree (combined yield from girdled and non-girdled branches). From this perspective it would appear that the February girdling has the best yield effect on the trees overall. The data does not take into account tree size, nor has it been analysed statistically. Trees will be harvested again in 1996.

