Black Walnut - Values

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO

SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
DEPARTMENT OF POMOLOGY

DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616

T.B

January 15, 1976

Mr. M.B. Morgan
1120 E. Fedora
Fresno, California 93704

Dear Mr. Morgan:

Most of the Black walnuts in the United States are produced in the eastern states. They are growing the Eastern Black walnut Juglans Nigra primarily for timber, the nuts are a by product.

Most of the Black walnut trees you see in California are Northern California Black walnut J. hindsii. As you know, these are nearly all roadside or shade trees from which the nuts are often harvested and sold to cracking plants.

The total U.S. production varies from about 25,000 tons in shell in a good year, from which about 2,900 tons of kernels are produced, to about 10,000 tons in a poor year. I do not think Black walnuts are a potential commerical crop for California. The information we have indicates that Black walnuts will not produce much more in shell than English walnut. In orchard form Black walnuts would have to be on good soil and receive much the same care as English walnuts if they are to produce well. Even if the yield was twice as much per acre as English walnuts produce the Black walnuts would be ~~worthless~~. worth less

Considerable work has been done in the East, in efforts to get thinner shelled Black walnuts. They have many named varieties some of them have kernel percentage of around 25%. The average Black walnut is 20% kernel or less. It seems unlikely that a really thin shelled Black walnut is likely to be developed anytime in the near future.

The only planting of Black walnuts I know in California in orchard form, is a young planting of California Black walnuts near Chico. The man who has this planting thinks he will get high yields with out spending a lot of money on care of the orchard. I wish him luck.

Sincerely,

Harold

Harold I. Forde
Staff Research Associate

HIF/gr