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Agricultural Extension Service

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

DIVISION OF POMOLOGY
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA

February 8, 1949

Mr. N. D. Hudson
Farm Advisor
Room 20, U. S. Post Office Building
Fresno 1, California

Dear Nat,

I am afraid that I failed to answer your letter of October 27 about the question of walnut varieties for the planting of Mr. Leslie Einstein of Reedley. Your letter arrived while I was away on a trip east and got buried.

In the plantings with which I am familiar, Hartley has done very well. It produces good size and quality in the interior valleys when grown on good soil and given good care. It is not as strong a grower as Franquette but will make satisfactory sized trees under good conditions. I believe that it is preferable to Payne for the upper (Southern) San Joaquin Valley although it may not bear as heavily as Payne when the trees are first coming into bearing. In comparable plantings, it seems to yield about double the production of Franquette at ages five to fifteen years.

For poorer soil conditions or where the trees are not to be given the best of care, Franquette will turn out better quality and may be more desirable in the long run than Hartley. I would want to be sure that the Franquette scionwood came from an orchard which was a good producer. The standard practice is to use the wood of a known strain, such as Treat, Willson or Lattin although there are probably some local strains in your district which are just as good.

Regarding rootstocks, I think the Persian would be all right if there is no oak fungus. However, if you could get paradox hybrids, you would get resistance to crown rot and also probably about as much resistance to oak fungus as with Northern California black. In addition, you would get lesion nematode resistance.

Very truly yours,

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E. F. Serr
Associate Pomologist