



Spread of Apricot Roots

unirrigated trees apparently obtained moisture from adjacent irrigated plot in experimental orchard at Winters

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The spread of the root systems of Royal apricot trees on apricot root is evidenced by the above photograph.

The responses of the trees were obtained in an 11-year-old apricot orchard, being used for irrigation experiments at the Wolfskill Experimental Orchard at Winters. The trees are planted on the square system 24 feet apart, and are growing on a Yolo Loam soil. All experimental plots received the same general culture except for the irrigation treatment.

The two rows of trees shown in the center are in the same experimental plot and were not irrigated during the grow-

ing season in 1949. The readily available soil moisture from the winter rains was exhausted to a depth of six feet about the third week in June. The trees remained under these dry soil conditions during the rest of the season.

The next plot, immediately to the left of the trees showing the white blossoms, was irrigated several times during the summer. The levee separating the irrigated and unirrigated plots was midway between the guard rows of each plot. Apparently the roots of the trees next to the irrigated plot had grown beyond the halfway point and had obtained some moisture.

The blossoms were uniformly distributed even if the water in late summer was obtained from only one side of the root system.

This example should not be taken to indicate that irrigating on one side of the tree will result in confining the roots to that side nor that irrigating on one side only constitutes the best irrigation treatment for deciduous trees.

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