INFLUENCE OF TRUNK CINCTURING ON EARLY YIELDS OF HARD PRUNNED HASS TREES

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The experiment was stablished on fifteen years old avocado trees stumped two years earlier by cutting the main scaffold branches at approximately 1 m height eliminating almost all leaf area.The first year a straight knife and a saw knife were compared, each with one or two cuts per branch. About half the number of main branches per tree (2-3 per tree) were cinctured. In the second year all the trees including the first year's control trees were double cinctured with the saw knife. In the first year yield and tree efficiency per unit trunk cross sectional area in cintured trees were about double than in not cinctured controls but, due to the large between tree variability, the differences were not statistically significant. There were no differences between the tools employed or the number of cinctures per branch. In the second year yield and tree efficiency were slightly higher on the fist year control trees, but double cinctured in the second. Taking the two years together yields were about 9 % higher on trees cinctured in both of them, but differences were not statistically significant. Cincturing strongly increased the percentage of determinate terminal buds reducing the percentage of vegetative buds.