



WALNUT NOTES

Record Keeping

Maintaining a permanent record of events, expenses, and sales from your walnut plantation or stand can be both enjoyable and profitable. Your permanent record can be a big help when you figure your taxes or establish the value of timber for a sale or insurance loss. For starters, here's what such a record should contain: a tree map; records of expenses, cultural treatments, tree growth and quality; frequent dated photographs of your trees; plus other items of interest to you.

The Record Book

Enter all records in a permanently bound, hard-covered notebook. This notebook will probably get heavy use in your plantation or stand so make sure that its backings are of good quality.

Tree Maps

An accurate map of your plantation or stand is an important part of your permanent record (fig. 1). Labelling the rows and trees within rows makes it possible to identify individual trees for keeping track of growth, form, and nut yields. Usually it is most convenient to letter the rows and number the trees. In natural stands irregular parallel rows can usually be drawn across the stand. Trees are then numbered according to distance from end of rows.

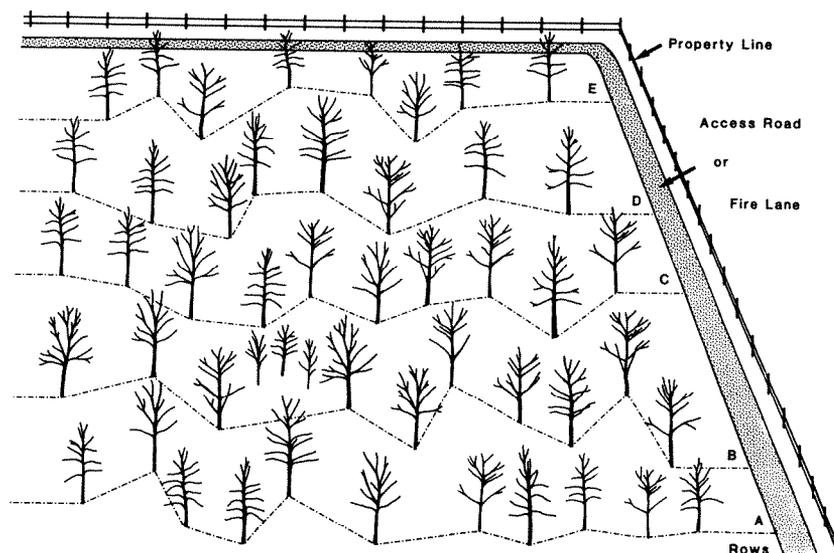


Figure 1.-Tree maps created by drawing irregular parallel rows through the stand make it easy to keep individual tree records.

Records

Maintenance and Expenses.-Record when supplies are purchased or when any work is done in your plantation. For any work done, enter information such as what kind of work, who did it, how long it took, and what it cost. Remember to give yourself minimum wages if you're doing the work yourself. For ideas on what other expenses to include, see economic surveys like those published in the *Walnut Council Bulletin*.

Tree Growth.-Most owners will want to keep some records on how well their trees are growing, especially the crop trees. The most convenient measure is diameter at breast height (4½ feet high on uphill side of tree). Mark a few trees throughout the planting and measure them every few years to determine growth rates. When the trees are large enough, paint letters or numbers directly on the tree with a light-colored latex tree paint to correspond with the letters or numbers on your map. Small trees can be marked with small stakes next to the trees. A permanent stake can be made easily from #9 galvanized wire cut into 2½- to 3-foot lengths with a small loop bent at one end of each to hold an identification tag (fig. 2). A slot cut across the end

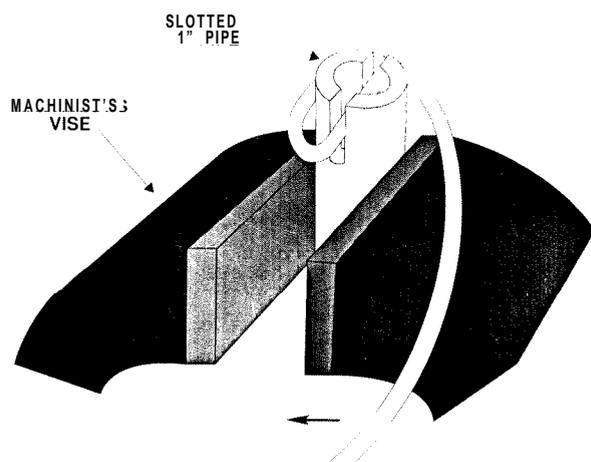
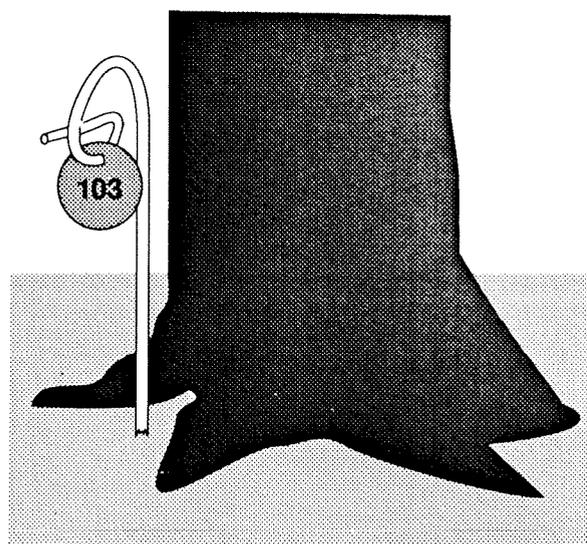


Figure 2.-A permanent wire stake with a bent loop to hold an identification tag can be made by bending a 3-foot length of No. 9 galvanized wire around a slotted 1-inch pipe (figure 2A) and placing it near the base of each tree (figure 2B).



of a 1/2-to 1-inch pipe held in a vise works well for holding the end of the wire as you bend the remainder around the end of the pipe. Do not place any metal (nails, fasteners, screws, etc.) in or on the trees. Any galvanized metal or iron in the tree will stain the wood and cause buyers to be cautious of any other timber you have for sale.

High-Value Trees.-By the time trees are 10 inches or larger in diameter, you will have picked out some trees that contain high-quality veneer logs. Mark these trees with a unique identifying mark and enter tree location and your identifying mark into your permanent record. A record such as the one below will help establish a tree's value for insurance purposes in case it is destroyed or stolen.

Tree location			Ht. to first Defects or other Int. log				Estimated
Stand	Row	Tree no.	D.B.H.	large branch	characteristics	rule 1/4" B.F.	stumpage value
Indian Creek	A	23	18"	10 feet	—	140	\$225
	D	15	16"	16 feet	Some birdpeck	180	\$310
North Terrace	C	5	20"	14 feet	Pin knots	250	\$375
	F	8	15"	16 feet	—	160	\$240

Nut Trees.-When managing a stand for nuts and timber, keep records of nut yields and frequency of bearing. Also, record when grafts are made and if they're successful.

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