



Nickels Soil Lab Projects.1

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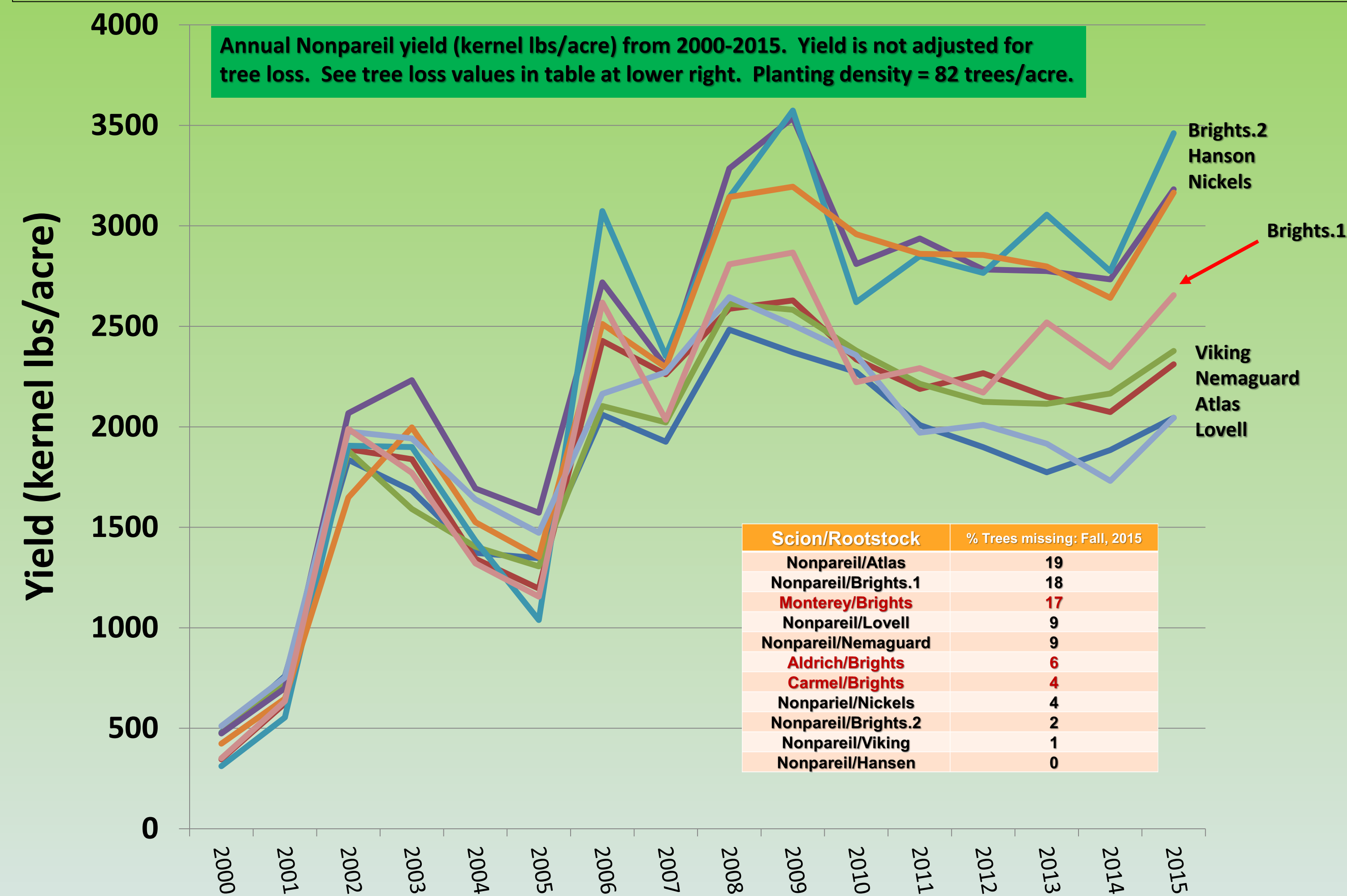
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Project 1. Rootstock Trial

Objective: To evaluate Nonpareil performance on 7 rootstocks planted on a wide spacing – 22’ x 24’ on Class 2-3 soil.

Methods: Trees planted in 1997. Nonpareil yield taken every year since. Monterey, Carmel and Aldrich pollinizers, all on Bright’s seedling. Full coverage micro-sprinklers. Study covers 13 acres. Brights.2 treated with phosphite 1-2x per year, fall and/or spring, starting in 2002. Brights.1 not treated with phosphite until 2010, when all the trial sprayed with phosphite.



Project 2. Pruning Trial

Objective: To evaluate tree pruning methods for maximum production while maintaining long-term yield in 16’x22’ spaced almonds.

Methods: Trees planted in 1997. Nonpareil (50%) with Monterey, Carmel, Sonora and Aldrich pollinizers, all on Lovell peach seedling, 124 trees per acre. Nonpareil yield taken every year since 2000. All trees were pruned in 1st dormant season, followed by either: very limited pruning (Unpruned) regular pruning (Standard), dormant hedging in 2nd and 3rd leaf with narrow vertical hedging in 2013 (Mechanical), or leaving temporary scaffolds to enhance yield which were removed in years 4-8 (Temporary)

Results: Consistent good yields – 2400 to 3200 lbs/acre for the last 9 years -- with no yield differences between any treatment.

Mechanically Hedged Trees, Nov. 2014



Project 3. Pollinizer comparison

Objective: To evaluate pollinator impact on NP yield and per acre production value.

Methods: Trees planted in 2006, 22’x16’, Lovell rootstock, double line drip irrigation. Compare NP and overall yield & value for the following plantings:

- 50% Nonpareil; 25% Aldrich; 25% Winters
- 50% Nonpareil; 25% Winters; 25% Monterey
- 50% Nonpareil; 25% Fritz; 25% Monterey

All treatment rows within 900’ distance.

Pollinator grouping	Nonpareil yield (lbs/acre)
Fritz Monterey	3165 a
Winters Aldrich	2992 a
Winters Monterey	3158 a

Results; No difference in Nonpareil yield in 2015 or in previous years. Any production differences are due to pollinizer yield and price. **No clear winners.**

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