Girdling: A Sustainable Method for Increasing Fruit Tree Yield

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What is girdling?
Removal or restriction of a strip of bark

Why girdle?
Influencing fruit set, size, total yield, harvest date...
- Grapes
- Peaches
- Apples
- Citrus
What about the avocado?

Avocado Girdling Study

Objective
- determine effects of girdling on growth and physiology of 'Hass' avocado

Treatments
- Control (no girdling)
- Girdled pre-bloom (November)
- Girdled at full bloom (March/April)
- Girdled at peak fruitlet abscission (June/July)

Effect of Girdling at Full Bloom on Final Percent Fruit Set

![Graph showing effect of girdling at full bloom on final percent fruit set.](image)
Effect of Girdling at Peak Fruitlet Abscission on Final Percent Fruit Set

![Chart showing the effect of girdling on final percent fruit set.]

**What DIDN’T Happen in Response to Girdling?**

- Girdling did not result in a reduction in fruit size in terms of mass, length or diameter.
- Girdling did not result in a change in seed size in terms of mass or diameter.
- There was no inverse correlation between fruit size and fruit number per branch.

**What DIDN’T Happen in Response to Girdling?**

- The treatment did not significantly affect fruit size or retention of the preceding year’s crop.

**Indeterminate Inflorescences**

**Uses in Sustainable Agriculture**

- Spatial and temporal changes in resource allocation due to girdling result in increased avocado yields without detrimental side effects.
- Applications...