

Citrus Industry Magazine – UF/IFAS SWFREC Citrus Mechanical Harvesting Program “What’s Shakin” column

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Pistachio is a relatively new commercial tree crop in California, with the majority of commercial acreage being planted within the last fifty years. As stated on the Fruit & Nut Research and Information Center website (<http://fruitsandnuts.ucdavis.edu>) at UC Davis: “We believe that it would be worthwhile to examine different harvesting methods, including the adaption of direct canopy contact harvesters, to improve harvest efficiency. Alternatively, a planned pruning program to decrease tree canopy height may maintain trunk shaking harvester efficiency because trunk shakers are most efficient at removal of the crop closest to the trunk.”

An experimental program, begun in 2010, evaluated current commercial trunk shaking harvester performance against that of available experimental harvesters on larger trees. To see the results of the project you can watch a 3 minute video presented by Dr. Louse Ferguson, extension specialist:

<http://www.screencast.com/t/tJUrrg1z>