

Whole orchard recycling increases soil organic matter and second generation almond tree growth and yield

by

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The Iron Wolf

Two Treatments:
Orchard Grinding with Iron Wolf
Pushing and Burning Trees



Whole Orchard Recycling has:

- Increased soil organic matter
- Increased soil organic carbon
- Increased soil nutrients
- Increase soil microbial diversity
- Increased water infiltration/ holding capacity
- Increased orchard productivity

Closure of more biomass plants reduces options

By Christine Souza

The closure or threatened closure of more California biomass power plants leaves farmers with fewer options for disposing of tree prunings or of trees uprooted during planned orchard removals. "The last few projects that we've done,



In 2015 growers started using manure spreaders to spread wood chips back on the soil surface





University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Horizontal grinders can chip 15-20 acres per day.



Agriculture and Natural Resources



San Joaquin Valley
Air Pollution
Control District

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAD) has a program that will reward growers with \$300-600 per acre per year (up to \$60,000 per grower) to implement whole orchard recycling. Since November 2018, 539 growers have received \$18.1 M, recycling 25,934 acres, diverting 727,980 tons of woody biomass from being burned!



CDFA's Healthy Soils Program has approved Whole Orchard Recycling as a practice that growers can receive incentives for practicing www.cdfa.ca.gov 14 growers received \$680,342 in 2020.



Since 2015 over 40,000 acres have been recycled!



This project evolved from farming on the urban edge





Thank You!

