

## The control of nut abscission in macadamia

**Link to publication record in USC Research Bank:**

<http://research.usc.edu.au/vital/access/manager/Repository/usc:1285>

**Document Version:**

Published version

**Citation for published version:**

Trueman, S J, Turnbull, C G N, Wilkie, J D, Forrester, B, McConchie, C A (2001) The control of nut abscission in macadamia. Australian Macadamia Society 2001 Conference Report, 2001, pp.47.

**Copyright Statement:**

Copyright © 2001 Australian Macadamia Society. Reproduced here with permission of the copyright holder.

**General Rights:**

Copyright for the publications made accessible via the USC Research Bank is retained by the author(s) and / or the copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing these publications that users recognize and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

**Take down policy**

The University of the Sunshine Coast has made every reasonable effort to ensure that USC Research Bank content complies with copyright legislation. If you believe that the public display of this file breaches copyright please contact [research-repository@usc.edu.au](mailto:research-repository@usc.edu.au) providing details, and we will remove the work immediately and investigate your claim.

**The Control of Nut Abcission in Macadamia**

Stephen Trueman<sup>1,2</sup>, Colin Turnbull<sup>1,3</sup>, John D Wilkie<sup>4</sup>, Bob Forrester<sup>5</sup> and Cameron McConchie<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Botany, University of Queensland, St Lucia QLD 4067

<sup>2</sup> Queensland Forestry Research Institute, MS 483 Fraser Rd, Gympie QLD 4570

<sup>3</sup> Huxley School, Imperial College at Wye, University of London, Wye, Ashford, Kent TN25 5AH, UK

<sup>4</sup> CSIRO Plant Industry, 120 Meiers Rd, St Lucia QLD 4067

<sup>5</sup> CSIRO Mathematical and Information Sciences, Canberra, ACT 2601

Macadamias are generally harvested from the ground in Australia. The duration of nut fall varies from a few weeks to several months depending on cultivar and growing conditions. This has economic consequences for the grower since several passes may be required for harvesting the crop. The quality of nuts may also deteriorate on the tree prior to nut fall or on the ground awaiting collection. Summaries of the past three years research examining several factors related to nut fall and harvesting will be presented. This will include morphological description of the tissues that separate to allow nut fall. Differences in the period between nuts reaching maturity and unaided nut fall will be shown for a range of cultivars from different locations. The period during nut development when Ethrel promotes drop will be identified and the effect of different doses on nut fall will be described. The longer-term effects of both tree shaking and treatment with Ethrel on the return yields will be described. Options for promoting nut drop and improving harvest scheduling in light of these results will be discussed.