

Andy Asmus 2-2-06

I am researching the intersections between livestock growing and orchard cultivation in the context of the Pacific Northwest with a focus on different nut varieties and chestnuts in particular. Livestock can be used for weed and pest control by grazing the orchard understory and consuming pest insects in their larval and adult phases. Some of the main concerns of orchardists who may consider integrating livestock into their system are damage to young trees by the animals, and contamination of their produce with fecal material. I will look into which cultivars and species of nut trees are most appropriate for the Pacific Northwest eco-region, and which have the best promise of economic viability as a single product, and also as one of several including meat and animal products.

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