

2-252501  
48/91

### HELICOPTER HARVESTS NUTS

California's bumper crop of walnuts comes down with the wind. By blowing the leaves from the heavy-laden trees, a man-made hurricane (provided by a hovering helicopter) leaves giant-sized nuts clear for picking. That was the original idea, but the down draft from the flying harvester's rotating blades is so strong that it scatters the pickers and brings the walnuts down with a bump.

For the walnut growers of California, this year's record harvest is indeed a windfall. The helicopter - the world's handiest jack-of-all-trades - takes a unique place among modern farm machinery.

1025201

WALNUT HARVEST

Youngson Weist

X In San Ramon, California, a bumper crop of walnuts comes down with the wind. Providing the man-made hurricane is a hovering helicopter. The down draft from its whirling rotor blades actually blows the walnuts from the ~~frass~~ branches. Besides scattering nuts, it scatters the leaves away from the trees, leaving the nuts free to be gathered by the pickers.

X For the walnut growers of San Ramon, this year's harvest is really a windfall. The helicopter, which already has scores of uses, now finds a unique place among farm machinery.