

## 2026 Field Trial

Plant Type: Peach Trees, Turlock, Ca.

**Summary:** In fall 2025, 22 acres of almonds were torn out, and Whole Orchard Recycling was performed. On 13 Feb '26, peach trees were planted, with 40-60t/acre of woody biomass in that orchard. SAI was invited to experiment with methods, to a) accelerate the decomposition of that much woody biomass, and b) to accelerate tree growth. Other than the SAI materials placed into the initial planting hole, both trees received identical water and other inputs since planting. These two trees are about 18' apart in the same orchard, so soil variation is small.

Trees planted 13 February 2026.



Photo 1 (L): Peach tree, w/blossom, on 6 March 2026.

Photo 2 (C): average "control tree" in Row 2, 7 weeks post planting, 27 April 2026.

Photo 2 (R): average "SAI treated tree":, Row 1, 7 weeks after planting, 27 April 2026.

In the photos above, the man with the beard is the farm owner. The man with the hat is a SAI worker who helped plant these trees. It is obvious to the eye that the SAI treated trees are growing taller, with wider canopies. The SAI treated trees also have thicker tree trunks, and larger leaves that are a deeper shade of green- indicating more chlorophyll (the farmer's eye picked this out). Thus we predict that the early growth advantage will increase further, given a thicker trunk (i.e. plumbing, both up and down), more and larger leaves. Note:\*\* It remains premature to predict earlier, or larger, peach harvests. SAI has our first yield enhancement data from Almonds at three years in this same orchard. Ask us, and we'll explain.

This peach farmer planted 22 acres, and gave us 6 rows to experiment with. Since this was his first time working with us & peaches, he was conservative. At 9 weeks in, this farmer is asking us, "can you do something to my other 22 acres +/- to get my other trees to catch up to your trees?" We have two ideas/techniques, and are trying both.

Photos: 29 May 2026 (scaled so that the man is about the same size in both photos)



Photo 4 (left): control tree.



Photo 5 (right): tree planted the same day, which received the SAI soil amendments at planting.

We will update our quantitative measurements on 8 June 2026. Rough #s are that at 102 days after planting, the rate of growth (change in height, in canopy width, in trunk diameter) is roughly 4x greater with this SAI treatment, then the way that this farmer planted bare root peach trees in an orchard, the spring after pulling out almond trees and performing “Whole Orchard Recycling” (WOR) in late winter.

Population sizes:

- Farmer’s Best Know Method: ~ 2,500 trees, all treated the same
- SAI treated: ~270 trees, with 10 different “formulas” of soil amendments

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